9 9 1969

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vWo8Pb4oKdo&ab_channel=GustavoRoman

Rod Laver

The Rocket

SURFACE	Professional Career only	Wins
Overall	79.7% (571-145)	72
Hard	81.9% (177-39)	26
Clay	75.2% (121-40)	14
Grass	84.8% (89-16)	8
Carpet	78.6% (184-50)	24

Department of Physical Education and Sports

Dr. M.G.R.
EDUCATIONAL AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE
DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY
University with Graded Autonomy Status
(An ISO 21001 : 2018 Certified Institution)
Periyar E.V.R. High Road, Maduravoyal, Chennai-95. Tamilnadu, India.

Rod Laver

The Rocket

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FOREWORD

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Laver was a slight and thin 5' 8", 145-pounder who didn't overpower his opponents; he defeated them with speed and agility, a fiery competitive spirit and a developed game that had no weaknesses. It was the abundant strength that provided Laver with the ability to hit a wristy forehand and backhand with heavy topspin that according to Ken Rosewell, was like "nobody else of the era." The strength enabled him to wait until the last moment to hit the ball, making him an unpredictable opponent to read from the baseline, which is where Laver excelled.

When the leading tennis players of the twenty first century are finding it difficult to win two or three grand slams and finding to go for a calendar grand slam, Rod Laver [The Rocket] achieved this some 53 years ago, that too he did it twice [1962 & 1969]. Surpassing this wonderful achievement appears to be near-impossible! Yes, he completed his second calendar grand slam on 9 9 1969, a historic date.

His achievement during the three eras – Amateur Era, Professional Era and Open Era – is remarkable. He proved his mettle continuously and successfully during three period in the history of world tennis.

Laver's feat of winning the Calendar Grand Slam not once but twice is a feat unprecedented. His tally of 10 Grand Slam titles set the original benchmark for dominance. In the modern era, players like Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic have won double the number of Grand Slams. But, the feat of Laver might never be successfully replicated. The fact that Laver excelled on all surfaces is a testament that his game was naturally great.

As a matter of honour, the Australian government had opened Rod Laver Arena Melbourne Park in 1988 as part of the National Tennis Centre complex. The popular arena is centre court for the Australian Open and hosts a wide range of live sport and entertainment events, from historic grand slam showdowns to world-famous international touring artists. Rod Laver Arena enjoys a global reputation as a world-class venue known for hosting the best in sports, live entertainment, and premier event experiences.

Honouring the tennis legend, in 2017 'Laver Cup' was established. Roger Federer's management company, TEAM8, Brazilian businessman and former Davis Cup player Jorge Paulo Lemann, and Tennis Australia partnered to create the Laver Cup. Every year during this tournament, Rod Laver presents himself during the Event to appreciate and congratulate the winners.

The Department of Physical Education and Sports has attempted to compile the relevant details and information regarding Rod Laver and release a book: "Rod Laver: The Rocket". It is noteworthy that the book has come very well. Book contain 16 chapters.

Some of the special and attractive features of the book are mentioned here. Rod Laver recollects the memory of his experience

of 1969 (Chapter 3), his miracle year, when he achieved the SECOND Calendar Grand Slam in the history of Tennis in the 20th century! I strongly recommend that the readers should read this chapter and start enjoying his narration of all FOUR – Australian, French, Wimbledon & US - finals in 1969. To satisfy the curiosity of the readers, the web links of all these 4 finals are given. Another chapter (Chapter 4) provides several pictures of Rod Laver playing international tournaments.

Book offers a list of top male and female international tennis players. In each case, their achievements and other background details are given. The list of female tennis players has two categories: (a) Top TEN hottest players and (b) Top Female players. In each case, their date/place of birth, their achievements, and their career details together with photographs are given.

Another chapter provides the intricate details of Rod Laver Arena established at Melbourne, Australia. The place, planning/technical details, technical features, sports/events conducted and several colour pictures covering all the features of arena are given. Rod Laver, is a frequent guest of honour at Championships and has been presenting the trophy to the men's singles champion on several occasions. Rod Laver Arena was the scene for Australia's famous Davis Cup victories in 2003. The arena hosted the semi-final and Final, at which Australia was successful in recording their 28th Davis Cup title. There is a web link given through which the readers could visit and see all the beautiful features of the arena.

There is a chapter dedicated to International Tennis Federation providing all important and interesting details. Another chapter explains all technical or otherwise words/phrases used in a tennis

tournament. Origin and developments of tennis racket to the present form are detailed in another chapter.

Other useful and interesting information – his biography, statues erected throughout the world, his Quotes (views, opinions, ideas, etc.,) – are available in the book. Several web links are given wherever necessary and the readers could make use of this rare facility. These web links not only provide the interesting details, but also take the readers to several related web links. Tennis players, fans and other stakeholders would find this book as very useful source. The authors did their best in bringing out this wonderful book and deserve the qualified appreciation. The department of physical education and sports is appreciated for encouraging their staff.

****

Thinking of a Calendar Grand Slam itself is a challenging one. Two Calendar Grand Slam is highly shocking, nearly impossible and even beyond imagination. Every day, Tennis Majors looks back to some of the biggest moments in tennis history. On September 9, 1969, Rod Laver beat Tony Roche to complete the calendar-year Grand Slam for the second time.

Rod Laver's 200 singles titles is very big unimaginable event in the world of tennis history. This includes his all-time men's record of 10 or more titles per year for seven consecutive years (1964–1970). Another fantastic and important feature is that he excelled on all of the court surfaces of his time: grass, clay, hard, carpet, and wood. Then, there is two Calendar Grand Slams!

Thus, Laver's record is intact at least for the foreseeable future. The remarkable thing about Rod Laver is that he is the only player in the history of the game to have achieved the Calendar Grand Slam not once but twice! Laver secured the first calendar Grand Slam in 1962 but that was in the Amateur Era. After being banned for five years due to his participation in the Professional circuit, Laver made a comeback when the Open Era started in 1968.

Remarkably, his skills never dimmed. Laver achieved his second Calendar Grand Slam in 1969 when he won all four titles. The fact that he has done it twice, that too in both eras, makes him the ultimate great of Tennis. Players in the modern era, due to the punishing

schedules and also because technology is providing a level-playing field, might struggle to even come close to Laver's achievement.

One of the most hallowed records is Rod Laver's calendar Grand Slam in 1969. To win all four major slam tournaments in a single year is something players have been trying to duplicate for the last four decades, but without any success. Some have come close. Federer has nearly done it twice by winning the Australian Open, Wimbledon and U.S. Open, but lost in the finals of Roland Garros to Rafael Nadal.

Laver is possibly the only high-profile male player in tennis history who had a perfectly fluid game and absolutely no weaknesses. He could do pretty much everything on a tennis court: he could attack, defend, volley and patiently construct points with equal competence, and could change his strategy on a dime - often in the middle of a match. Laver was an all-court player who used the full dimensions of the court to outplay his opponents. He hit his groundstrokes with plenty of topspin - which was uncommon in his time - but could also slice his backhand with vicious underspin. His running backhand is legendary. Dan Maskell, the Voice of Wimbledon, once described him as "technically faultless."

In the US Open 2021, there was tremendous anticipation. Novak Djokovic, who had won the Australian, French, and Wimbledon titles, was now on the cusp of securing the US Open and clinching the Calendar Grand Slam. Only one person in the history of the sport had achieved it and that was way back in 1969. Djokovic was one match away from matching the feat of Rod Laver, who had last achieved the Calendar Grand Slam 52 years ago. Djokovic's quest for a golden calendar Grand Slam was already thwarted when he lost to Alexander Zverev and Pablo Carreno Busta in Tokyo Olympics 2020.

But, in a stunning turnaround, Djokovic finally crumbled on the big day in 2021. He lost 4-6, 4-6, 4-6 to Daniil Medvedev in the final. Djokovic

fell short at the final hurdle and thus, the quest also ended. For the first time in a long time, there was a hope that someone would match Laver's feat. Now, after the failure of Djokovic to win the US Open, it seems that Laver's immortal feat of a Calendar Grand Slam might never be broken.

Laver has one of the most impressive professional Profile in the history of men's tennis. Here is a list of his most significant records:

- Only male player in the Open Era to have won the Calendar Grand Slam (1969)
- Only player in the history of tennis, male or female, to have won the Calendar Grand Slam twice (1962, 1969)
- Most titles won in a single year (1969): 18
- Most singles pro titles won (pre-Open Era): 70

Laver helped Australia win the Davis Cup four consecutive times from 1959 to 1962. In 1973, professionals were permitted to play in the Davis Cup for the first time, and Laver was on a winning team for the fifth time, claiming two singles and a doubles rubber in the final as Australia beat the United States 5–0. Australia was crowned Davis Cup champions in each of the five seasons Laver played in the competition. Laver won 16 out of 20 Davis Cup singles matches and all four of his doubles. In other words, his success rate in Davis Cup is 100%.

When we thought of a book containing an encyclopaedic profile of Rod Laver, the task appeared as a Himalayan one. The authors of this book, '***Rod Laver: The Rocket'***, - containing 17 chapters – made a laborious job in searching, collaborating, arranging and compiling the very important and vital details and information of this gigantic tennis player in the 20th century.

The first chapter is 9 9 1969, a historic date in the tennis world. In the second chapter – 'Two Calendar Grand Slams [1962 & 1969]' – the minute aspects of all the details of his achievements are provided; the web link helps the readers watch the final match in US Open [9 Sep 1969]. Rod Laver narrates his memories of his life time and these are provided in chapter-3, which we recommend all the readers to go through and clearly know/understand about his professional proficiency. Several pictures/photographs covering his life, game and experience are provided in chapter-4.

Chapter-7 comprehensively covers his life at several stages, amateur and pro years, his coach, his life till 2022, selected bibliography and important web links. Chapter-8 narrates the history of 'Laver Cup', specially established honouring him. Also, the interesting technical details about the conduct of the cup are provided here.

Readers have an opportunity to know about the top tennis players – both male and female -; their brief background and other details are available here. Book gives an elaborate detail of origin and growth of tennis racket. Another interesting feature of the book is that it contains several technical terms – with explanations – used in the tennis.

Even during his life time, Rod Laver is being honoured world over. These aspects, viz., his statues, Australian monument by Australian government etc., are provided with great details with the photographs. Interesting information about International Tennis Hall of Fame and International Tennis Federation are provided with intricate technical details together with several pictures.

Great efforts are taken by the authors to include all available important details and information; but it is very difficult to cover the complete and whole scenario in a single book with 185 pages. Therefore, highly

selected and useful web links are given to enable the readers, especially younger generation, to visit these links for further information. We do hope that the tennis fans, especially younger generation of 21st century, would find the book more informative and useful.

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Joint Registrar – Languages
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Please visit:

https://www.britannica.com/biography/Rod-Laver

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09 09 1969

The day Rod Laver became the first man to do the coveted calendar-year Grand Slam twice

Every day, Tennis Majors looks back to some of the biggest moments in tennis history. On September 9, 1969, Rod Laver beat Tony Roche to complete the calendar-year Grand Slam for the second time

WHAT HAPPENED EXACTLY ON THAT DAY

On this day, September 9, 1969, Rod Laver, who had already achieved the Grand Slam once, as an amateur, in 1962, defeated Tony Roche in the US Open final (7-9, 6-1, 6-2, 6-2) to win a fourth consecutive major title in the same year; the calendar-year Grand Slam. Although in 1962 many experts had claimed that the absence of the best tennis players in the world clouded his achievement, this time, in the Open era, there was no way to diminish the value of his feat.

THE PLAYERS: ROD LAVER AND TONY ROCHE

Rod Laver, "Rocket", left-handed Australian genius

Rod "Rocket" Laver, born in 1938 in Queensland, Australia, had set records in his early career as an amateur; achieving the impressive feat of completing the Grand Slam in 1962, while simultaneously being a part of the four-time winning Australian Davis Cup team between 1959 and 1962. In 1963, he was signed as a touring professional player, and although his rookie year proved to be pretty tough (losing 19 of his 21 first matches), he eventually grew to become the best on the pro tour as well. In 1967, just before the Open era, Laver completed the "Pro Grand Slam", winning the four main professional tournaments of the season. When the Open era began, Laver was still at the peak of his form. Runner-up at Roland-Garros in 1968, in the first Open

Grand Slam tournament in tennis history, he triumphed at Wimbledon a few weeks later (defeating Tony Roche in the final, 6-3, 6-4, 6-2). In 1969, he dominated the game, as he won the first three Grand Slam tournaments of the year, defeating Andres Gimeno in the Australian Open (6-3, 6-4, 7-5), Ken Rosewall at Roland-Garros (6-4, 6-3, 6-4) and John Newcombe at Wimbledon (6-4, 5-7, 6-4, 6-4). He now had the opportunity to achieve a second calendar Grand Slam, if he was to triumph at the US Open, where he arrived as the heavy favourite, having remained undefeated in his last 23 matches.

Tony Roche, Australian singles and doubles star

Tony Roche, born in 1945 in New South Wales, Australia, began playing tennis at the age of 9. He reached his first Grand Slam final in 1965 as an amateur, at Roland-Garros, defeated by countryman Fred Stolle (3-6, 6-0, 6-2, 6-3). One year later, in the same place, he claimed his first and only major title in singles, defeating István Gulyás in the final (6-1, 6-4, 7-5), after his opponent had agreed to delay the final by 24 hours to allow Roche to recover from an ankle sprain. In 1968, Roche joined the pro tour known as the Handsome Eight, in the United States, and the same year, as the Open era began, he finished runner-up to Rod Laver at Wimbledon. In 1969, he pushed the same Laver into an epic semi-final match at the Australian Open (lost 7-5, 22-20, 9-11, 1-6, 6-3). He also held 7 Grand Slam titles in doubles, partnering John Newcombe.

THE PLACE: THE WEST SIDE TENNIS CLUB, FOREST HILLS, NEW YORK

The US Open, formerly known as the US National Championships – until the beginning of the Open era, in 1968 – was established in 1881, and, although it is the only Grand Slam to have been played every single year without an interruption since its beginning, it moved several times locations throughout the 20th century. First held in August 1881 on grass courts at the Newport Casino, on Rhode Island, the tournament moved to New-York in 1915, where it was held at the

West Side Tennis Club, at Forest Hills (with the exception of years 1921-1923, when the event was moved to Philadelphia).

THE FACTS: ROD LAVER MAKES HISTORY FOR THE SECOND TIME

1969 was the first entire season of the Open era, which had begun in the spring of 1968. For the first time in tennis history, professional and amateur players could all compete in the same tournaments, including the Grand Slams, which pros couldn't attend until then. For 30-year-old Rod Laver, who had achieved the feat of winning all the four majors as an amateur in 1962, it was an extra motivation.

It was a great feeling to be able to all compete again," Laver said, according to tennishead.com. "Maybe a light shone down on me that said: 'You're in this game for a reason, so compete hard and play hard.' I think that showed up in 1969."

"Rocket" decided to attend the four Grand Slam tournaments, which not many of his peers were doing at the time – Australia was still too far away for many touring players. Laver began the season by winning the Australian Open, which was held that year in Brisbane, and by finding out that his wife was pregnant, and that the due date coincided with the US Open final.

Seven months later, the Australian lefty arrived in New York as a soon-to-be father, but also as the heavy favourite of the US Open, being only a few more wins away from an amazing second Grand Slam. However, Laver had quite a rough ride to win the first three majors of the year. In Australia, his countryman Tony Roche made him work hard to survive a four-hour semi-final clash, played under scorching heat. At Roland-Garros and Wimbledon, he came back from two sets down twice in the early rounds, before lifting the trophy a few days later. Following his triumph at the All England Club, Rocket was on fire, winning the 23 matches he played before the US Open began.

Laver, who had the Grand Slam close at hand and seemed almost invincible, drew a lot of attention, but, as he would explain later, thinking of his pregnant wife reduced the pressure. "Thinking of Mary certainly eased my concerns about completing the calendar-year Grand Slam,", he would explain, 50 years later, according to atptour.com.

Laver settled at Charlton Heston's place, on the Upper East Side, and began the last leg of his journey. This time, it was Denis Ralston, from the United States, who pushed him into a five-set combat in the fourth round (6-4, 4-6, 4-6, 6-2, 6-3). In the semi-finals, Laver defeated Arthur Ashe, the defending champion (8-6, 6-3, 14-12). Now, the last man standing between him and the Grand Slam was Tony Roche, who had given him so much trouble at the Australian Open.

"I wasn't afraid to lose," said Laver, 50 years on. "But I knew it was going to be a very tough match, so I had to put my best foot forward."

Due to phenomenal rain delays, the final was played on Tuesday, September 9. The grass court was still slippery, and Laver, at the end of the first set, was allowed by the umpire to wear spikes, as it was the last match and it was no big deal if the court was slightly damaged. "I ended up losing that set, but I had spikes on and felt more comfortable." This proved to be a good decision for Rocket, who dominated the three following sets to prevail, (7-9, 6-1, 6-2, 6-2). The new US Open champion jumped over the net to shake his opponent's hand, and quickly went to find a phone to check on his wife (who was not in labour yet) and to tell her that he had just completed a second Grand Slam.

WHAT NEXT: LAVER NEVER REACHES ANOTHER GRAND SLAM FINAL

In the post-match press conference, Rod Laver would tell the press that he was probably going to take a step back from tennis, after having achieved this amazing second Grand Slam.

"I felt pretty happy and that I hadn't been with my wife too often," he would tell the ATP. "I felt it was time that I needed to be with Mary and my child."

His wife would give birth just three weeks later, allowing him to be by her side to meet their son.

In the following years, Laver would focus mainly on the World Championship Tour, where he would remain one of the best players until the mid-70s. He would only attend eight Grand Slam tournaments until his retirement in 1977, with the 1969 US Open remaining his last major title.

No other male player would win four consecutive major tournaments until Novak Djokovic, in 2015-2016, and no man would achieve the calendar Grand Slam again, which would only add to the aura of Rod Laver's legend.

His name is immortalised in tennis history and
the centre court at the Australian Open
was named after him in 2001, and in 2017,
Roger Federer established a Team Competition which was named
" **THE LAVER CUP**."

Source:

https://www.tennismajors.com/us-open-news/september-9-1969-the-day-rod-laver-completed-his-second-grand-slam-487356.html

Also visit to watch:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DwPo-6Hxiuk&ab_channel=USOpenTennisChampionships

(😊)(😊)(😊(😊)(😊)

TWO CALENDAR GRAND SLAMS

[1962 & 1969]

Rod Laver.

The name is synonymous with sporting greatness. The Australian has achieved the most difficult feat in tennis. Twice. Complete a Calendar Grand Slam: win all four Grand Slams in a calendar year.

Laver first achieved the feat in 1962 when he won all four Majors in a tennis calendar year. But before the Open Era, the Grand Slams were only open for amateurs. So, the Australian's achievement didn't receive the credit it deserved. There was always an asterisk mark against it.

But in 1969, the first full year of the Open Era, Laver, already an established great by then, was out to prove his doubters wrong.

The legend of Rod Laver

It is clear why Laver's record might never be broken. Djokovic made the mistake of playing Wimbledon and the Tokyo Olympics back-to-back. A punishing schedule already made him fatigued heading into the US Open. It was evident from all the matches. He had to fight back from a set down or he lost a set in five out of the six matches. Before the final, he had endured a punishing five-set match against Alexander Zverev. That probably dimmed his chances of winning the US Open against an opponent who was fresher.

Thus, Laver's record is intact at least for the foreseeable future. The remarkable thing about Rod Laver is that he is the only player in the history of the game to have achieved the Calendar Grand Slam not once but twice! Laver secured the first calendar Grand Slam in 1962 but that was in the Amateur Era. After being banned for five years due to his participation in the Professional circuit, Laver made a comeback when the Open Era started in 1968.

Remarkably, his skills never dimmed. Laver achieved his second Calendar Grand Slam in 1969 when he won all four titles. The fact that he has done it twice, that too in both eras, makes him the ultimate great of Tennis. Players in the modern era, due to the punishing schedules and also because technology is providing a level-playing field, might struggle to even come close to Laver's achievement.

Reliving the Calendar Grand Slam of Laver in 1962

The year 1962 saw Laver start his campaign on a brilliant record. Before the Australian Open, Laver was consistently losing to Ken Rosewall and Roy Emerson. However, in the final, Laver defeated Emerson 8-6, 0-6, 6-4, 6-4 to win the Australian Open for the second time. He had earlier won in 1960. The two would again clash in the French Open final as well. Laver once again got the better of Emerson by winning it 3-6, 2-6,6-3, 9-7, 6-2.

Wimbledon was the crescendo of Laver's dominance as he lost only one set in the entire tournament. Laver defeated Martin Mulligan 6-2, 6-2, 6-1 to win the title for the second consecutive time. The US Open completed his brilliant 1962 and for the third time, he got the better of Emerson. In the final, he defeated his Australian rival 6-2, 6-4, 5-7, 6-

4 to complete the Calendar Grand Slam in 1962. Laver won a total of 22 titles that year which is stunning.

In the professional circuit, Laver achieved the Grand Slam even in that. He won the US Pro three times but it was in Wembley that he was at his best, winning four consecutive titles from 1964 to 1967. When he won the French Pro in 1967, it seemed nothing could stop Laver. When he competed in the professional circuit, he was banned from playing all four Grand Slams.

Laver creates history in 1969

When the Open Era began in 1968, Laver came back into the Grand Slam fold. He won Wimbledon in 1968 by beating Arthur Ashe and Tony Roche. In the final of the French Open, he had lost to Ken Rosewall. But, in 1969, everything changed as that year became 'Laver's miracle year'.

In the Australian Open, he defeated Emerson in four sets and overcame a massive jolt to win in five sets against Tony Roche. Laver had won the first and second set but lost the third and fourth sets. But, Laver came back to win the final set. In the final, he defeated Andres Gimeno to win the Australian Open for the third time.

Australian Open [1969] Semi Final: Watch

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=maUzQvkJX_k&ab_channel=AustralianOpenTV

Laver continued to dominate and in the French Open final of 1969, he defeated Rosewell in three straight sets.

French Open [1969]: Watch [4th set]

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CwbUQcj9CwI&ab_channel=Cuarenta

In Wimbledon, Laver successfully defended his Wimbledon title by beating John Newcombe in four sets.

Wimbledon [1969]: Watch

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vWo8Pb4oKdo&ab_channel=GustavoRoman

The Australian was now on the cusp of something special. History was finally created in the US Open as Laver defeated Tony Roche in four sets to achieve the double Calendar Slam.

The ultimate Tennis records

Laver's feat of winning the Calendar Grand Slam not once but twice is a feat unprecedented. His tally of 10 Grand Slam titles set the original benchmark for dominance. In the modern era, players like Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic have won double the number of Grand Slams. But, the feat of Laver might never be successfully replicated.

Djokovic is the only player in the history of the Open Era to have won all four Grand Slams twice. But, if one looks at the Amateur plus Open Era, Laver has already achieved that as well. The fact is Amateur Era stats are not counted so much as the Open Era. The fact that Laver excelled on all surfaces is a testament that his game was naturally great.

For 52 years, the world waited for someone to match Laver's record. Djokovic came close but he stumbled. Now, one feels that this record might never be broken in history. Laver's feat is probably like the

batting average of another great Aussie sporting genius called Don Bradman. Like his average of 99.94, Laver's Calendar Grand Slam feat might never be matched.

SECOND Calendar Grand slam: 1969

Fourth Round:

Beats <:> Dennis Ralston [USA] 6-4, 4-6, 4-6, 6-2 and 6-3

Quarter Final:

Beats <:> Roy Emerson [Aus] 4-6, 8-6, 13-11 and 6-4

Semi Final:

Beats <:> Arthur Ashe [Defending USA Champion] 8-6, 6-3 and 14-12

Final: [9. 9. 1969]

Beats <:> Tony Roche [Aus] 7-9, 6-1, 6-2 and 6-2

Laver began the US Open against USA's Denis Ralston, who took him to a five-setter in the fourth round (6-4, 4-6, 4-6, 6-2, 6-3). In the quarters, he needed four sets to get the better of Roy Emerson before he seemed at his sublime best in the semi-finals where he beat defending champion Arthur Ashe of USA (8-6, 6-3, 14-12).

But the final against compatriot Tony Roche, against whom Laver had played out an epic five-setter in the Australian Open semi-final earlier in the year, was going to be a tough ask.

On the day of the final, the weather too wasn't kind. In fact, the final had been shifted to Tuesday, September 9, 1969. The US Open court which was a grass one at the time was slippery.

Laver struggled on the turf and lost the first set 7-9. The chair umpire allowed him to wear spikes from the second set onwards

"I ended up losing that set, but I had spikes on and felt more comfortable," Laver was quoted as saying by *Tennis Majors*.

The impact was evident as he won the remaining three sets with ease, claiming the final 7-9, 6-1, 6-2, 6-2.

Please visit to watch this GREAT match:

https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?ref=watch_permalink&v=1236743253827763

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vWo8Pb4oKdo&ab_channel=GustavoRoman

The year was 1969 and in the month of September, the tennis world was buzzing with excitement because the US Open was in progress. The Open era had begun by then and tennis fans got to witness tennis players from around the world competing against each other for the coveted trophy.

The season saw Aussie legend Rod Laver dominating the tennis circuit once again.

Having won the other three Grand Slam tournaments earlier that year, he was in the hunt for the fourth and the final Grand Slam of the year, the US Open.

Another Grand Slam to his name would mean Laver winning 'The Grand Slam', a unique feat of winning all Grand Slam titles in a single year, a feat he had achieved once before the Open era. Having seen him achieved the feat before, his fans were expecting him to repeat it again.

After he defeated the then-defending champion Arthur Ashe in the semi-final, the expectations grew even more.
Laver's fellow Australian Tony Roche beat another Australian John Newcombe in the other semi-final match to set up a clash with Laver at the final.

Laver, given his past accomplishments and the form he was in, was the crowd favourite, with everyone expecting him to win.

The crowd, however, was shocked when Laver lost the first set 7-9. It was then clear to everyone, including Laver himself, that it was not going to be easy to beat Roche and that he had to bring out the best in him to overcome his opponent and lift the title.

Laver, being a true champion and a legend, did manage to bring out the best. The following set saw him returning to his dominant self and playing beautiful tennis; a sight the crowd wanted to behold.

Deadly serve-and-volley games, wide range of shots, powerful wrists with the capability to hit heavy top spin from both sides, excellent running shots and brilliant foot work, Laver had every single recipe in the tennis cookbook required to become a champion and, on that day, he brought out all those skills on display winning the second set 6-1.

Tony Roche, being one of the top players of the time and ranked World No. 2 that year, was no ordinary player. But on that particular day starting from the second set, he seemed to have been totally outclassed by the brilliance of his opponent. He seemed to have no answer to Laver's technique and eventually ran out of ideas. The Laver onslaught had begun.

Such was Laver's dominance that the final score line read 7-9, 6-1, 6-2, 6-2 in Laver's favour, entering his name in the record book for being the

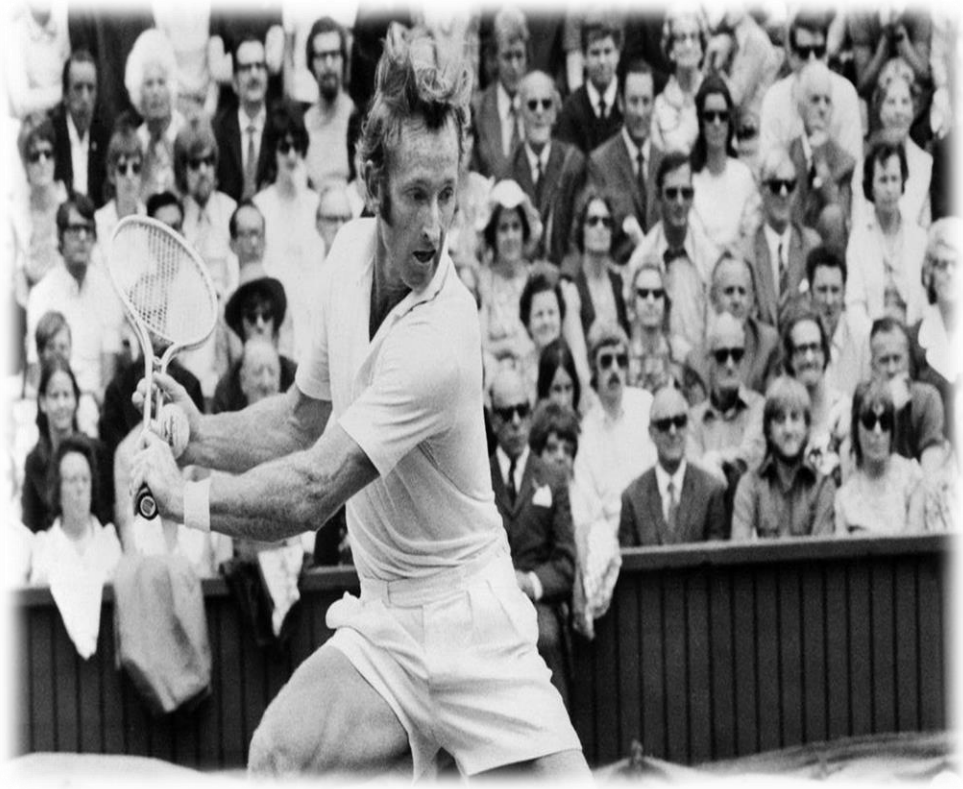
only player to have won 'The Grand Slam' twice. The result once again asserted Laver's dominance in men's tennis during that time.

The match itself was not a classic since it was very much a one-sided encounter, but the entire tennis fraternity including Rod Laver himself and the tennis fans will not forget it because of the unique piece of history it created.

Watch him [pictures] playing on 9.9.1969

Final Match of Rod Laver in US open in 1969

Australian Rod Laver in action versus USA Arthur Ashe during Men's Semi-finals at West Side Tennis Club



Rod Laver playing at Wimbledon

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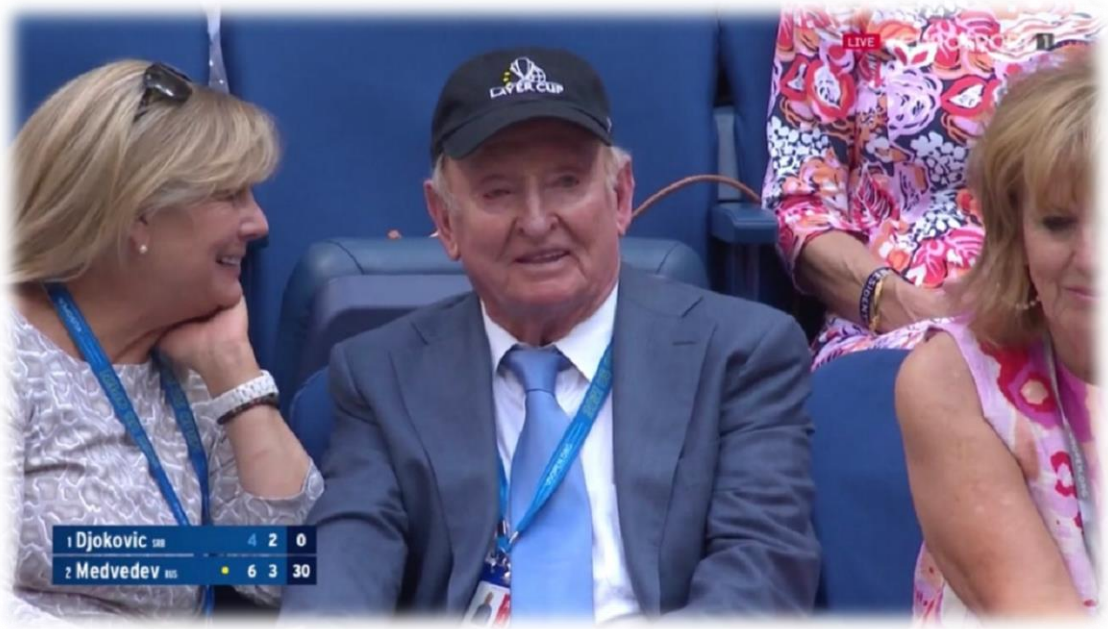

Rod Laver in attendance at US Open [2021] final to see if Novak Djokovic joins him
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1969 = Laver's Miracle Year

Rod Laver looks back 50 years

Rod Laver recollects the memory of his experience of 1969, his miracle year, when he achieved the SECOND Calendar Grand Slam in the history of Tennis in the 20th century!

In the First of a four-part series this year, Rod Laver looks back 50 years to the 1969 Australian Open, the first step to his historic second Grand Slam.

Source:

https://www.atptour.com/en/news/laver-1969-grand-slam-australian-open-feature

Rod Laver's first steps to immortality in competition 'open' to amateur and professionals, 50 seasons ago, saw the 30-year-old travel from his California home and back to Queensland for the first time in three years, to see his mother and father, who was aged 70. The first 48-player, eight-day Australian Open was set to be held — for the seventh, and final time — on the Milton grass courts in Brisbane's Frew Park, boasting a 7,000-seater stadium. “I’d beaten Neale Fraser to win the 1960 Australian Open in Brisbane, to become the first Queenslander champion,” remembers Laver, 50 years on. “The courts were patchy and bad bouncing; the pavilion was just as I’d remembered it as a kid. It was one of the most dispiriting tournaments I’d ever played in, as the humidity was intense and the seedings were odd — facing Emerson [the 1963-67 champion] and Fred Stolle so early on.

“Having won the Wimbledon title in 1968, I’d told my wife, Mary, towards the end of the season that I wanted to play all four of the major championships the following year. She agreed, ‘Go ahead, it’s your life with tennis.’ Completing another Grand Slam, after six years in the wilderness as a pro, was already on my mind when I arrived in Brisbane. With a cortisone injection in my left elbow, a product of going for a ball and falling on my left wrist in Boston in June 1968, I started against Massimo Di Domenico in the second round. Before every match I needed to wrap my elbow in a canvas pad for 20 minutes, then I iced it after each match.

Right from the start, the January heat in Brisbane was excessive and the humidity was oppressive."

Di Domenico, who joined four other Italian players — Vittorio Crotta, Pietro Marzano, Adriano Panatta and Piero Toci — on the tour of Australia and New Zealand, told ATPTour.com, "I remember walking with Rod along the tunnel leading to the Centre Court and being quite nervous. Rod was very friendly and talkative, which relaxed me a bit. I played reasonably well, although I lost 6-2, 6-2, 6-3, but Rod was always complimentary when I played a good shot. After the match, Rod asked me to practice with him in the following days, but with my English not being very good, Martin Mulligan, as our coach, stepped in to help fix the agreement."

Then came No. 11 seed Emerson, the five-time defending champion, who would partner Laver to the doubles title later in the week. In their 31 matches between 1958 and 1962, the pair had met at seven major championships. "Playing Rod was always tough," Emerson told ATPTour.com. "Harry Hopman [the long-time Davis Cup coach and captain] placed such great emphasis on Australians playing together that we always practised together and partnered up in doubles, so there were no surprises in new strokes or tactics. It all came down to a matter of points, a ball hitting a line or not. I was two years older than Rod and, over the course of our long careers in the amateur and pro games, we played over 70 times. I liked playing against left-handers, having partnered Neale Fraser, who was a great player, in 1959.

"Rod didn't have the biggest serve of all time, and players used to target his second serve a lot. He was a slow starter too, so often I attempted to get off to the best possible start, but once he found his range and rhytmn later in a match there was no stopping some of his groundstrokes, particularly in the best-of-five sets format that we regularly played."

Laver remembers, "The match started at 9 p.m. and could have gone on to 2 a.m.! Emmo served at 7-6 in the fourth set, but I eventually won [6-2, 6-4, 3-6, 9-7]." Emerson, who captured the first two major singles championships of 1963 and 1967, adds, "The biggest difference between

Laver of 1962 and 1969 was he was more experienced, he had tightened up his strokes and was a seasoned player."

"Scheduled to play 10 hours after beating Emerson, the weather posed another threat," recalls Laver, of his quarter-final against Fred Stolle. "In January, Brisbane can get like a sauna, so in [38°C] afternoon heat, drinks were inexplicably left out in the sun to warm up. There was no ice. We threatened to walk off unless they were replaced with cold drinks. Fred had such a good serve, first volley and backhand, so I struggled to get through him [6-4, 18-16, 6-4], but what I remember is loud music from a wedding party was being played beyond the court. Rochey beat John Newcombe in a five-set quarter-final and their request for the music to be turned down was declined. For some reason, the organisers also decided to take time off to go to the races, a fact not lost on the pros, because the Australian LTA, at the time, was not in favour of Open tennis [which had begun in April 1968]. Incredibly, at one point, there were not enough linesmen and Bill Bowrey and Ray Ruffels played their quarter-final without them."

The New South Wales Open, staged one week before the first Australian Open, highlighted how good promotion and enthusiasm ensured that Open tennis had captured the Sydney public's imagination. But in Brisbane, a city that was at the time a quarter of the size of Sydney, and with most residents still away in their beach houses on holiday, the high-quality tennis on show at the Milton Courts was lost. Having pruned tournament expenses from $30,000 to $28,000 in the week before the first Australian Open, when organisers realised that attendances would be small, the eight-day, three-night tournament gate receipts were $14,000. The overall financial loss was $13,500 and at the Lawn Tennis Association of Australia A.G.M. later in the year, a decision was taken that in future the championship would be held between the larger cities of Sydney and Melbourne, which became the event's permanent city in 1972.

Having made it through to the semi-finals, Laver then contested the longest match of his career. Fourth seed Tony Roche, then 23 years of age, had beaten Laver one week earlier in the New South Wales Open in Sydney and would become his main rival in 1969, winning five of their nine

matches. “In the five years of being a contract pro, I hadn’t played any left-handers, but now Rochey, who was a part of the ‘Handsome Eight’ and used to playing other lefties Roger Taylor and Nikki Pilic, was my opponent. It was 95 per cent humidity for the midday start, the toughest match of my Grand Slam year. Rochey wore a handkerchief around his neck, I went through three sun hats. My brother, Trevor, had phoned before I stepped out onto court, saying he would come to watch at two o’clock, so hope I’d still be playing.”

In the eighth longest singles match played at the time, Laver “swallowed a couple of glucose tablets, salt pills and draped ice towels over his head at the change of ends”. Both players put web cabbage leaves in their hats to keep them cool in Laver’s 7-5, 22-20, 9-11, 1-6, 6-3 victory in four hours and 40 minutes. The second set alone, lasted two hours and five minutes and Roche told ATPTour.com, “I remember having five or six set points in the second set and when we both took a shower after the end of the third set, I thought ‘Rocket’ looked ‘stuffed’ and I’d got him.”

Upon the resumption of play, Laver said, “Rochey came out hitting heavy serves and solid volleys to take a 5-0 lead.” But the match turned with Laver leading 4-3 in the decider, when Roche served down the middle at 15/30. “I sliced under my backhand for a crosscourt,” said Laver, who had chipped returns to Roche’s feet all match. “Rochey watched it go by, thinking it was out, but there was no call. Tony lost his concentration, but I went on to win. I wasn’t thinking of the Grand Slam at the time. That was the equivalent of playing nine sets. Fitness had something to do with being able to compete that day.” The following day, the *Brisbane Courier-Mail* noted, “In between points in the fifth set, both Laver and Roche appeared ready to topple in exhaustion... never have two players been so evenly matched in sheer guts and brilliance on Milton's centre court." Incredibly, the following week, in Auckland, Roche beat Laver in four sets for the title.

Laver’s opponent in the final, ninth seed Andres Gimeno, who had beaten Butch Buchholz, Ruffels and Rosewall without dropping a set, told ATPTour.com, “The night before I played Rosewall, it rained a lot and the

court was very slippery. I wore spikes and played very well, but Ken was wearing normal shoes and was sliding a lot. I played well in the other matches, but in the final, Rod played too good!" Laver, who'd soaked for hours in a baking-soda bath in his motel room after his victory over Roche, remembers, "My troublesome left elbow held up, but Gimeno lacked energy in the final. He was an artist, in placing and stroking the ball without a lot of heavy top spin. But he didn't take his chances to break in the third set." Laver won 6-3, 6-4, 7-5 for his third Australian crown and collected the $4,500 first prize.

Today, only one photograph exists of the trophy ceremony of the first Australian Open on 27 January 1969. Even when looking at the black-and-white snap, the freckles, the slight frame and the muscular left forearm are unmistakable. Laver, with sweat on his brow and a white towel wrapped around his shoulders, looks the president of the Lawn Tennis Association of Australia, Charles Edwards, straight in the eyes upon receiving the sterling silver and silver gilt Norman Brookes Challenge Cup, which took 800 man-hours to create in 1926. The scene, on the middle of three grass courts at the Milton Courts in Brisbane, witnessed by a sparse crowd on green wooden bleachers and as few as 15 journalists, was the first step of Laver's historic ninth-month journey to the calendar-year Grand Slam.

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In the Second of a four-part series, Rod Laver looks back to 1969 Roland Garros, the second step to his historic second Grand Slam

Source:

https://www.atptour.com/en/news/laver-1969-grand-slam-roland-garros-feature

It is an examination of ability: technique, tactics, physical-conditioning, emotional and mental stamina. Roland Garros is a great advertisement for the sport, where crowds take matches, grim struggles to heart, and Rod Laver, who arrived in Paris 50 years ago, knew that he faced his toughest fortnight of the year. Every player of consequence was present in 1969, prize money was increasing, and there were new names under the heading, '*Le comité du tournoi*' on the front page of the 1969 programme. French tennis meant business.

"I enjoyed the emotional involvement, watching matches and witnessing the crowds cheer and boo," Laver told ATPTour.com, 50 years on. "Coming back is much more possible on clay than on grass courts. Early on, you looked forward to and dreaded every match, the low-pressure balls, but by Roland Garros in 1969, I was as fit as I'd ever been in my life. In late Spring that year, I remember that the clay was dry, dusty and, as a result, slippery."

Laver, who had beaten Andres Gimeno in January for the Australian Open crown, had played at a round-robin tournament in Amsterdam the week before and was confident after claiming the second biggest title of the year, two weeks earlier, at Madison Square Garden in New York over Roy Emerson on a slow, synthetic court. Having swept past the Japanese Koji Watanabe in the Roland Garros first round, the 30-year-old looked up to fellow Australian Dick Crealy.

"He was 6'5" and had a big forehand," recalls Laver. "He hit the ball extremely hard and throughout the first set I was chasing balls. By the time he let up, I was two sets down, but rain stopped play, when it was dark under the lights, at two sets to one up.

"I remember waking at 7 a.m. the next day, practised with Emmo before 9am for a 45-minute pre-match workout, then was ready to go for 10:30am, when it was very windy. It wasn't a spectator's hour, as I reckon there were four people in the stadium. I won nine of the next 11 games, but Dick recovered from 1-3 in the fifth set to lead 4-3. He missed a volley into an open court, in the ninth game at 40/30. It was the good fortune I had."

Laver completed a 3-6, 7-9, 6-2, 6-2, 6-4 second-round victory with the wind on his back, grateful to survive. “The tournament committee were eager to get to the quarter-final stage by the end of the week, so, on the same day, after some lunch, I came out to beat Italian Pietro Marzano [6-1, 6-0, 8-6],” he said.

“I then played Stan Smith, the 6’4” big-hitter, who was rapidly improving and I had a tough match against him a month later at Wimbledon. He had a cold, it was cold and the match finished in drizzle. I didn’t want it to be carried over to the next morning [again], so I worked hard in the third set [for a 6-4, 6-2, 6-4 win].”

Laver, who first travelled to compete in Paris in 1956, had to learn to play on clay, and prior to 1962, when he won his first calendar-year Grand Slam, had a 6-5 match record at the championship. “I had to learn to play on clay,” said Laver. “I’ve always believed that the key to playing well on clay is having patience and strength in your legs. It is all about accuracy over speed as clay blunts serve power, but it’s an exciting test of your abilities. To me, the importance of getting first serves in was key, as I didn’t have a cannonball serve, but I did fire the occasional ace.”

Through to the quarter-finals in 1969, Laver then waited on Gimeno, who shook off nerves to edge past 1961 and 1964 champion Manuel Santana, who had pulled a groin muscle in lunging for a ball in the fourth set. “Perhaps the victory in the previous round, helped him to win the first set against me, but I got down to work by keeping the ball low, slicing my backhand and heading to the net. Slicing was more often the best form of attack, giving you time to approach the net. You didn’t think Gimeno ever thought he could beat you, but he gave a good show and I won in four sets [3-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3].”

Laver then challenged Tom Okker, a terrifically quick Dutchman with fast reflexes and a hitter of big topspin strokes. “This was early Okker, but he won the first set and I knew that I had to dig in,” says Laver. “By then, I’d sharpened my anticipation and remember half-volleying well and taking the net away from him to win [4-6, 6-0, 6-2, 6-4]."

In a re-match of the 1968 Roland Garros final, the sport's two best players came face-to-face once more for the 75th time – through amateur, pro tour and Open Eras. In the 11th edition of their clay-court rivalry, Laver, who had beaten Ken Rosewall two weeks earlier, 6-2, 1-6, 6-3 at the Dutch Pro Championships, was totally focused as they walked through the dark tunnel in the bowels of the stadium and out onto the main show court. Rosewall had defeated 1966 titlist Tony Roche 7-5, 6-2, 6-2 in the other semi-final.

"I played him in the final the year before, when he beat me in four sets," says Laver. "So I just knew that I had to change my game a little bit. I decided I was going to hit my groundstrokes, heavy groundstrokes and pressure him when I could. Bill Tilden always used to say, "Never change a winning game." I always knew that a player who played cautiously after building up a lead took a risk, so I'd tend to go hard for the first point of a game, and the first two games of every set."

During the 1969 Roland Garros final, Laver's groundstroke length kept 1953 champion Rosewall under pressure to force errors. Rosewall was simply unable to pounce on any short ball with his backhand and hit the net to produce crisp, well angled volleys. Laver knew, anything less than keeping his long-time rival behind the baseline and he was in trouble.

"It all worked for me," said Laver, who collected $7,000 in prize money. "I was timing the ball perfectly that day, perfect control from game one. That's what it takes to win any match. I led 3-1, then went 3-4 down in the first set, but came through 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 [in one hour and 33 minutes]. I think Ken felt that I played him better on instinct. My form stayed all the way through."

Laver would later see a 4-3, 40/0 advantage evaporate in the fifth set of the Roland Garros doubles final with Emerson against John Newcombe and Roche, who won the 13 straight points for the match. But Laver was halfway to the Grand Slam, seven years on from his first in 1962, having conquered the most physically demanding championship.

"A Grand Slam year starts in January and ends in September; from the Australian Open and ends with the US Open," said Laver. "You have to win 28 matches, not beat 128 players in every draw. While I knew Wimbledon and the US Open would be tricky, the dream was alive."

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In the THIRD of a four-part series this year, Rod Laver looks back 50 years to 1969 Wimbledon, the third step to his historic second Grand Slam

Source:

https://www.atptour.com/en/news/laver-1969-grand-slam-wimbledon-feature

With the first two major trophies in the bag, the lure of The All England Club beckoned Rod Laver, halfway to the calendar year Grand Slam, in the summer of 1969. But the pressure of performing at The Championships meant that even with a 21-match winning streak at Wimbledon — 24 if you included the historic pro event in August 1967, a major stepping stone to Open tennis — the Australian wasn't leaving anything to chance.

At the peak of his powers, Laver holed up at a Dolphin Square apartment with his wife, Mary, who was seven months pregnant, and nursed a long-injured left elbow that had required a cortisone injection in Los Angeles, a couple of months earlier. He'd occasionally drive to SW19, but often took a Bentley or Rolls Royce, with a few other players picked up from central London hotels, to within 30 yards of Rudyard Kipling's famous quote above the doors onto Centre Court. Stepping out of a courtesy car, they would turn left to the men's locker room, long since demolished.

"I enjoyed playing at Wimbledon, I felt that I played some of my best tennis there," Laver exclusively told ATPTour.com, 50 years on. "Not that I enjoyed the pressure, but my concentration levels seemed to increase. I

always felt good about coming to Wimbledon and I gave myself every chance. I prepared well on the practice courts ahead of the tournament and I was ready to compete against everybody."

For many players arriving at The All England Club is a pilgrimage, but for Australians, ever since Frank Sedgman became only the fourth man to win the triple crown — of Wimbledon singles, doubles and mixed doubles titles — in 1952, competing at The Championships is a source of national pride. Laver, who was absent for five years between 1963 and 1967 as a contract professional, had last lost at Wimbledon to Neale Fraser in the 1960 final.

"I didn't feel unhappy about my first match," admits Laver, who beat Nicola Pietrangeli 6-1, 6-2, 6-2 on Centre Court in the first round, which was carried over to the second day as a result of a wash out. "He was more of a clay-court player. He did play on grass, I'd played him at Wimbledon in other years. I felt comfortable about serve and volleying, and as he played a baseline game I felt comfortable about attacking him as there was no pressure at the net."

As Charlie Pasarell and Pancho Gonzales battled it out on Centre Court in what, until John Isner and Nicolas Mahut's 2010 epic, was the longest Wimbledon match in history, Laver was in a muddle on No. 4 Court, watched by a vast crowd in the aisles between courts, down 6-3, 6-4, 3-2 against Indian Premjit Lall, a university-educated, one-time cement salesman. "There was a lot riding on that tournament," reflects Laver, on the eve of the 2019 championships. "I'd already won two legs of the Slam and I thought my chances of winning Wimbledon were okay, so I put pressure on myself."

Word began to spread around The All England Club of Laver's plight, but at 3-4 in the third set, Lall pulled up, rubbing his legs and afflicted by cramp. He missed two smashes and lost the game, never to win another one that day. "I was very fortunate to come through that match," says Laver, who won 15 straight games. "I pretty much underestimated him playing so well on the grass courts. He had a good serve and I was struggling. My confidence levels weren't there. I started off on a bad note

and I was fortunate to find my game. So you have to be very fortunate to come back from that level. It showed to me I wasn't concentrating fully."

With a couple of aspirins, taken an hour before he stepped out onto court, the dull pain in his left elbow was manageable, aided by soaking it each night in a compression pad. "It was a little tender at times, but I didn't worry about it too much and once you got into a match itself you soon forget it. I would often remind myself to play every point, and not let a match away from you."

Laver moved past Denmark's Jan Leschly 6-3, 6-3, 6-3 and into the fourth round where he challenged a familiar foe, Stan Smith, who had suffered a cold in a damp two-day loss to the Australian in the 1969 Roland Garros fourth round. Laver says, "Stan preferred playing on grass, with his big serve and net rushing. He came to the net quite a lot. You had to worry about getting the ball past him and on grass you sometimes had to worry about the bounces. It's a low bounce and making passing shots is a lot tougher than on clay courts."

It was one of Laver's toughest matches, but he came through 6-4, 6-2, 7-9, 3-6, 6-3 for a place in the last eight. "I knew what to expect, he had a big fast serve, but at the same time he made errors," recalls Laver. "You have to take advantage of every opportunity that comes along. In the third set, I was down 0/40 at 5-3, and mentally you may think the match is in the balance, but you do your best to work your way through. You play one point at a time. You stop making mistakes. I did so, but Stan was always a tough competitor."

Within the space of five days, Laver had played four matches, but there was no respite, tests came thick and fast. Cliff Drysdale had beaten Laver 4-6, 6-2, 7-5 in the West of England Open at Bristol, the week after his victory at Stade Roland Garros, and the South African had overcome Roy Emerson in the Wimbledon fourth round, but Laver proved to be a different animal in the quarter-finals, winning 6-4, 6-2, 6-3. Playing against a player with a double-handed backhand often proved a test for Laver,

who admits Drysdale, “Had a good serve and a double-handed backhand, which you need a different attitude to play against. I used to attack everyone’s backhand, and his backhand was probably stronger than his forehand. In that instance, you had to cut down on the errors and make him hit winners or win the point. You have to play safe in many areas.”

Then came Arthur Ashe, the 1968 US Open champion, with a big serve and flashy game, never afraid to hit out. For a while, Laver was powerless, unable to impart his own game on the American, who would ultimately lift The Championships title in 1975. “The biggest thing that happened was he led 5-0 in the first set and he was serving aces, hitting winners, hitting return of serves for winners,” Laver told ATPTour.com. “I had never seen him play like that. For those five games he didn’t make an error. I said to myself, ‘He can’t keep this up. He can’t hit like this all the time, otherwise I’m going to lose for sure.’

“I just got the ball in play and make him hit the winners. Finally, I won a couple of games, but in the next set, it was the same thing. I needed him not just to make errors, but to hit shots. I still struggled in the third set, but won it and by the fourth set I was feeling much more comfortable about what I had to do. I played accordingly, my game picked up, and I got through that last set.” Laver won 2-6, 6-2, 9-7, 6-0.

Ahead of his sixth straight Wimbledon final — taking into his account his five-year absence as a professional — against 1967 champion John Newcombe, Laver didn't seek any council, pep talks or strategy sessions with any player, or Australia's great coach Harry Hopman. “It was a matter of going out and I knew what Newcombe was capable of doing,” says Laver, who had lost to 25-year-old Newcombe 6-4, 6-4 in The Queen’s Club semi-finals shortly prior to 1969 Wimbledon. “Newk was always a thinking man’s champion, he had a big serve and he made all his returns. My serves were in play, so I was the one who had to make the winners or keep the pressure on the opponent. I knew it was a tough match and I knew that my game had to be at its best when I played him. That was the way I approached it.

“There was no strategy, other than what I’d seen in previous matches against him. His backhand was a little worse than his forehand, so I thought I’d keep working on his backhand and keep him moving. Don’t let him play his shots.”

At one-set all, with Newcombe serving at 4-2, 0/15, 30-year-old Laver produced a moment of inspiration which, to this day, his opponent believes was the turning point. Speaking 50 years on, Newcombe told ATPTour.com, “Rod hit a beautiful backhand return down the line, low to my forehand volley. I could not have hit a better sharply angled volley cross court and followed up by covering 99 per cent of his possible replies. He just reached the ball low to the ground and chipped a sharp angle across my body. It was just out of my reach and touched the outside of the line. I remember as I watched the ball hit the line, I turned around and gave Rod a nod of my head, acknowledging the greatness of the shot at such a crucial time.”

Laver remembers, “I knew I was in a fight. I chipped the ball back, hitting it across in front of him. That gave me the opportunity to break serve and get back into the match. Those sorts of things happen. You don’t think of it quickly, ‘I’m going to hit down the line or go behind him’. It’s instinct and it worked. There would be many times where that chipped backhand wouldn’t have gone into court. You’ve got to play with what you’ve got.”
Laver went on to win 6-4, 5-7, 6-4, 6-4 for his fourth Wimbledon title, which at the time was more than any man since the abolishment of the Challenge Round in 1922, wrapping up the match by striking a high lob across court. He was $7,200 the richer and, most importantly, he was three-quarters of his way to a second calendar year Grand Slam.

“I never looked at draws, I simply worried about whoever I came up against – one step at a time,” says Laver, on the eve of The Championships in 2019. “If I won my matches, I would then see who I needed to play. The worst thing you can do is think if I win, then I’ve got to play a guy with a good forehand, a big serve. You’re getting worked up before it ever happens. A lot of times if never happens, because that person loses. It was in my corner. You’ve only got to win seven matches, not 120 of them. When I think back to 1969 Wimbledon, I got myself out

of a lot of trouble against Premjit Lall, and then the matches against Stan, Arthur Ashe and Newk were very problematic."

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In the **Final** part of this year's series, Rod Laver looks back 50 years to the **1969 US Open**, when he completed his second calendar-year Grand Slam.

Source:

https://www.atptour.com/en/news/laver-1969-grand-slam-us-open-feature

If Rod Laver was feeling any pressure, he certainly wasn't showing it on the eve of the 1969 US Open, where he had a second shot at history.

With his heavily pregnant wife, Mary, at home in Newport Beach, California, the Australian arrived at the Tudor City apartment of actor Charlton Heston, on the east side of Manhattan in New York City, riding a 23-match winning streak, which included consecutive titles at the US Pro Championships in Boston, St. Louis, Binghamton, Fort Worth and Baltimore.

Laver was in great shape and full of confidence ahead of his shot at completing a second calendar-year Grand Slam. Any thoughts about a dip in form didn't enter the mind of 31-year-old. Only the due date of his first child, revealed by his wife by telephone when he was competing in Brisbane at the 1969 Australian Open in January was of a concern. The same day as the US Open final, 9 September.

Speaking exclusively to ATPTour.com 50 years on, Laver admitted, "It's a strange thing, but I didn't really have any let-downs, whatever the championship. I just kept on playing. If I enjoyed it, why would I stop?

Because I won Wimbledon and then headed over for the US circuit, I was playing and keeping myself in good shape and playing well.

“Once Wimbledon ended, Mary returned to California and I went on the road and didn’t look back. I felt I was busy with my program. I was very happy and Mary was happy too, she told me to do my thing. She had her daughter, Ann, with her and there was plenty of people around, so we left it as was. Thinking of Mary certainly eased my concerns about completing the calendar-year Grand Slam.”

Laver and his good friend, John McDonald, a former New Zealand Davis Cup player, took up residence in the apartment of Heston, who they had known since the late 1950s, when the Ben-Hur actor watched tennis at the Pacific Southwest tournament in Los Angeles, which, in the amateur era of the sport, was the latest US tournament played after the national championship.

“We played some tennis tournaments and he invited a group of players to his house in Beverley Hills,” remembers Laver. “He loved playing tennis, happy to be part of the tennis world as he played quite a lot of tennis to a good level, and we enjoyed meeting him.

“I was happy when Chuck said, ‘Why don’t you take my place in Tudor City, it’s under rent control and the price was right. Be my guest.’ McDonald also knew him through Wimbledon, so he came as my friend, driver and hitting partner. John was almost like a coach of mine. He knew all the things I was doing wrong, and he could immediately tell me how I could fix it, such as footwork, or ball toss on serve. His advice helped get me out of bad habits.”

Having read everything written en route to his 1962 calendar-year Grand Slam, Laver was now well versed about the media and limited his newspaper reading, merely content in preparing the grips on his racquets out of habit. “I didn’t know what people were writing about me in the columns,” says Laver. “I talked to [*CBS Sports* commentator and *Boston Globe* writer] Bud Collins at different times and he brought up the Grand

Slam, but I didn't let anything around me let my focus drop. The amount of reporters was small, not many travelled as they do now, so I didn't have to worry too much."

Through three rounds, Laver didn't experience any problems against a trio of Latin Americans, Mexican Luis Garcia (6-2, 6-4, 6-2), then two Chileans Jaime Pinto-Bravo (6-4, 7-5, 6-2) and Jaime Fillol Sr. (8-6, 6-1, 6-2) on the West Side Tennis Club grass, which was a far cry from the surface quality of The Championships, Wimbledon. "The Forest Hills grass and Wimbledon grass was no comparison," remembers Laver. "The centre court was uneven and was the only court that ever got covered. The court surface heaved up and down, they didn't re-seed or do the regularly work to make it better. So you played it accordingly."

The second US Open of the Open Era was far more commercial than in 1968, with a huge 'Come To Marlboro County' sign on the new $167,000 scoreboards; *IBM* boards around the grounds highlighting statistics; *Spalding* emblazoned on the front and backs of ball boy shirts, and *Pepsi* logos on the drinks coolers behind the umpire's chairs. On the court, Dennis Ralston, who kept the ball low over the net and produced a number of fine returns, was the first player to have Laver sweating, when the American found himself up a set and a break in the fourth round. Laver had beaten Ralston in five sets en route to the 1968 Wimbledon crown, but nationalist fervour from the Forest Hills crowd presented a mental battle this time around.

"If I didn't time it right, I would walk out after a change of ends to silence," says Laver. "But if I stepped out at the same time as him, I felt the support the crowd was giving him. It was a mental thing, I was out here too. I walked out together with him, unless he took off like a bullet and I was too slow. Back in those years, there were no chairs on the court [courtside chairs came into effect at 1975 Wimbledon]. You just stood at the net post, by the umpire's chair, towel off and kept going."

At two sets to one down, using the old amateur rules, Laver and Ralston took a 10-minute break after the end of the third set. "We both went inside to the locker room, and Roy Emerson and Fred Stolle came in and sat

beside me and told me to throw the ball higher, so I wouldn't miss my first serve," recalls Laver. "They gave me good tips, as they were watching and knew what was happening."

Laver, who ultimately won 6-4, 4-6, 4-6, 6-2, 6-3, breaking in the sixth game of the fifth set when Ralston missed a backhand volley, admits, "Dennis was always tough for me, he served and volleyed well and was a good mover on the court. Maybe sometimes I didn't concentrate hard, but unless you played your best tennis you'd get in trouble."

From that moment on, the West Side Tennis Club became a swimming pool; the already patchy grass got chewed up and tournament organisers expected to lose $100,000 of the $500,000 gross. Rain washed out two complete sessions, six-and-a-half inches of rain fell in a little over 24 hours — which was a 25-year high — and gave Tournament Director Owen Williams a major headache. During the two-and-a-half-day lull, prior to the quarter-finals, Laver and McDonald drove to Englewood in New Jersey to train indoors, or visited the NY Athletics Club gym, but Laver ran too much and his leg muscles became sore.

"When you had breaks, it was always tough to keep yourself ready to play these matches and have the right level of concentration," says Laver. "It happened, but I worked through it. By exercising a lot and playing hard, that puts you in a position to go five sets."

Laver needed to draw upon his reserves in the quarter-finals, against fellow Australian Roy Emerson, who he'd beaten in three times en route to his first calendar-year Grand Slam in 1962. "He is probably my best friend," says Laver. "You're both fighting to win the match and he won't give me the match, as he wants to win the tournament."

Emerson led by a set and a break, but as a toe-dragger when serving, he'd inadvertently dug a trench behind the baseline and it later affected his motion. By taking special care of his serve and hitting through the ball, Laver found a way back by playing his own game. "He started off well and played well, but as the match progressed, I knew I was getting better,"

remembers Laver, who eventually came through 4-6, 8-6, 13-11, 6-4 against the 1961 and 1964 champion. “I felt I needed to have the attitude of playing the way I was playing, and everything will be fine. Not the attitude of trying to change your game, because you’re not winning.

“I wanted to play the game I played in years past. I didn’t change my game, because I was down as I thought I could get back. If I lose, I lose. You’re not supposed to win every tournament. Play your game, and if you lose, you lose.”

Ahead of Saturday’s semi-finals, showers were of considerable force and first delayed and then interrupted Laver’s clash against Arthur Ashe, with 11,000 spectators left to huddle under the stands. Tarpaulin covers and the use of a hovering helicopter as an improvised drying device didn’t help matters and failed to keep the courts truly playable. Speaking of the tricky court conditions, Laver says, “I was used to playing on the grass. The Australian courts weren’t that level either and there was a lot of bare patches, making for different speeds. If it was a tough court for me, then my opponent would be in the same position and he won’t be able to play the game he wants to play. You play accordingly. You’re used to playing and not getting good bounces, that’s why I served and volley.”

By hitting winners on return of serve and looping his topspin groundstrokes, the Australian found himself at 8-6, 6-3, 12-12 when bad light stopped play for the day. Ashe, who had beaten Manuel Santana and Ken Rosewall en route to the semi-finals, served for the first set at 5-4, and in the third set had a set point at 9-8, with Laver serving at 30/40. Concluding the next day, when there was further rain, the final was subsequently delayed by 24 hours.

Even then, Laver and Tony Roche needed to wait a further one hour and 35 minutes until the delayed start of play, as another helicopter attempted to hover over the court, but it merely pushed water to the edges of the court. “I knew about the helicopter,” says Laver. “The only problem was it brought up more water from the court.” The centre court baseline was saturated and both finalised struggled to bounce the ball pre-serve. Roche

welcomed the delay, having come through a highly physical semi-final 3-6, 6-4, 4-6, 6-3, 8-6 over John Newcombe on Sunday.

Laver was wary of Roche, who would win five of their eight matches in 1969, but had gotten the better of him at the start of his Grand Slam year at the Australian Open, when one set of their semi-finals was 24-22. Thoughts of Laver's idol, Lew Hoad, who'd won the first three major championships of 1956 only to lose to Rosewall in the US Championships final, didn't enter the head of the 'Rockhampton Rocket'. "I wasn't afraid to lose," says Laver, of 9 September 1969, 50 years on. "But I knew it was going to be a very tough match, so I had to put my best foot forwards."

Laver served for the first set at 5-3 in soggy conditions, but soon asked Mike Gibson, the Wimbledon (1962-1975) and US Open (1969-70) referee, if he could put on spiked shoes. "I asked the referee, Mike Gibson, 'If I can't stand up on the grass, can I wear spikes?' He said, 'Certainly, as this is the last match. You're welcome to play in them.'" Roche got cramps when he wore spikes, so kept his tennis shoes on. Laver had played in spikes in Davis Cup ties and in Australia in the past.

"I ended up losing that set, but I had spikes on and felt more comfortable. The court was soft, and I found myself skidding in my spikes. After a run, you'd put your breaks on and slide through the shot. I had to keep plugging away, but I also knew I had to get my first serve in and volley more, not letting the ball bounce. It was easier to get used to it, but if you weren't used to it, it would be difficult to lift your feet up. You don't slide to the ball, but you stop and hit. It was a unique occasion to do so in one of my biggest matches."

Laver found himself down 30/40 in the first game of the second set, but worked past Roche, who was five of the last 23 games. Nothing, even a 30-minute rain delay at the start of the third set, could put off Laver, who went onto win 7-9, 6-1, 6-2, 6-2 and complete his second calendar-year Grand Slam. The elation of the moment saw Laver leap over the net, momentarily forgetting how Herb Flam caught the net and tripped when he did so at Adelaide in 1957. "We did it in Australia at various tournaments. I was so happy to complete the year."

Afterwards, Don Budge, the first player to win the calendar-year Grand Slam in 1938, congratulated Laver once more, as he'd done at Forest Hills in 1962. Although Laver had a $16,000 cheque in his back pocket for winning the US Open title, he didn't have any loose change and had to ask a newspaperman to borrow a dime in order to phone his wife, Mary, in California. "I was thrilled to tell her that I'd won and that she was doing fine. She wasn't in labour. Back at the very beginning of the year, Mary called me when I was in Australia and told me that she was pregnant. The due date for the baby was 9 September, the same day as the final of the US Open. Ultimately, she was three weeks late. Our son, Ricky, was born on 27 September."

Victory proved to be a watershed moment for Laver, who declared to reporters in his post-match interview that he planned to focus more on his family in the future. There was no loss of desire for the sport, but the 1969 US Open was his 11th and final major singles trophy. "At 31, I had some injuries, a tennis elbow that was tender at times," Laver told ATPTour.com. "I could play the match, but afterwards I suffered for a while to get it back. I took aspirin or medication to relieve the pain, but I felt pretty happy and that I hadn't been with my wife too often. I felt it was time that I needed to be with Mary and my child."

Following his triumph, Laver travelled to Los Angeles, where he saw his 31-match winning end to Raymond Moore, but, most importantly, he was relieved to be heading home. During his historic 1969 season, Laver won 17 singles titles, earned a record $106,000 in prize money and compiled a 106-16 match record.

Now 81, Laver still finds it amazing that no other man has completed the 'Grand Slam', first coined by John Kieran, a *New York Times* columnist, in 1933. Five men have since have won a trio of Grand Slam events in the same year — Jimmy Connors in 1974, Mats Wilander in 1988, Roger Federer in 2004, 2006 and 2007, Rafael Nadal in 2010 and Novak Djokovic in 2011 and 2015.

"It is amazing, when I look at the players who have competed over the past 50 years, whether it was Connors, John McEnroe, Boris

Becker, Pete Sampras, or Federer, Nadal and Djokovic in today's era," says Laver. "Years ago, a lot of people didn't look at the four major tournaments as a Grand Slam. Some didn't like going down to play in Australia in December or January. Maybe it was the circumstances that they didn't feel the impact of what the Grand Slam was.

"But the game is bigger now, people have looked closer at historic records over the past 20 years, and it's great that tennis celebrates its past. I've enjoyed my 50th anniversary celebrations."

Rod Laver

Playing

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September 9, 1969: The day Rod Laver became the first man to do the coveted calendar-year Grand Slam twice

us open
1969 FINAL

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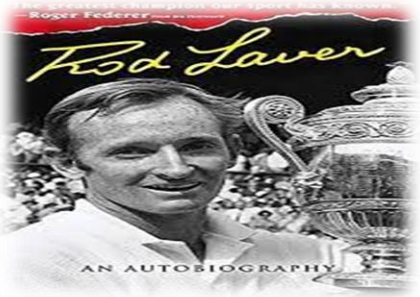
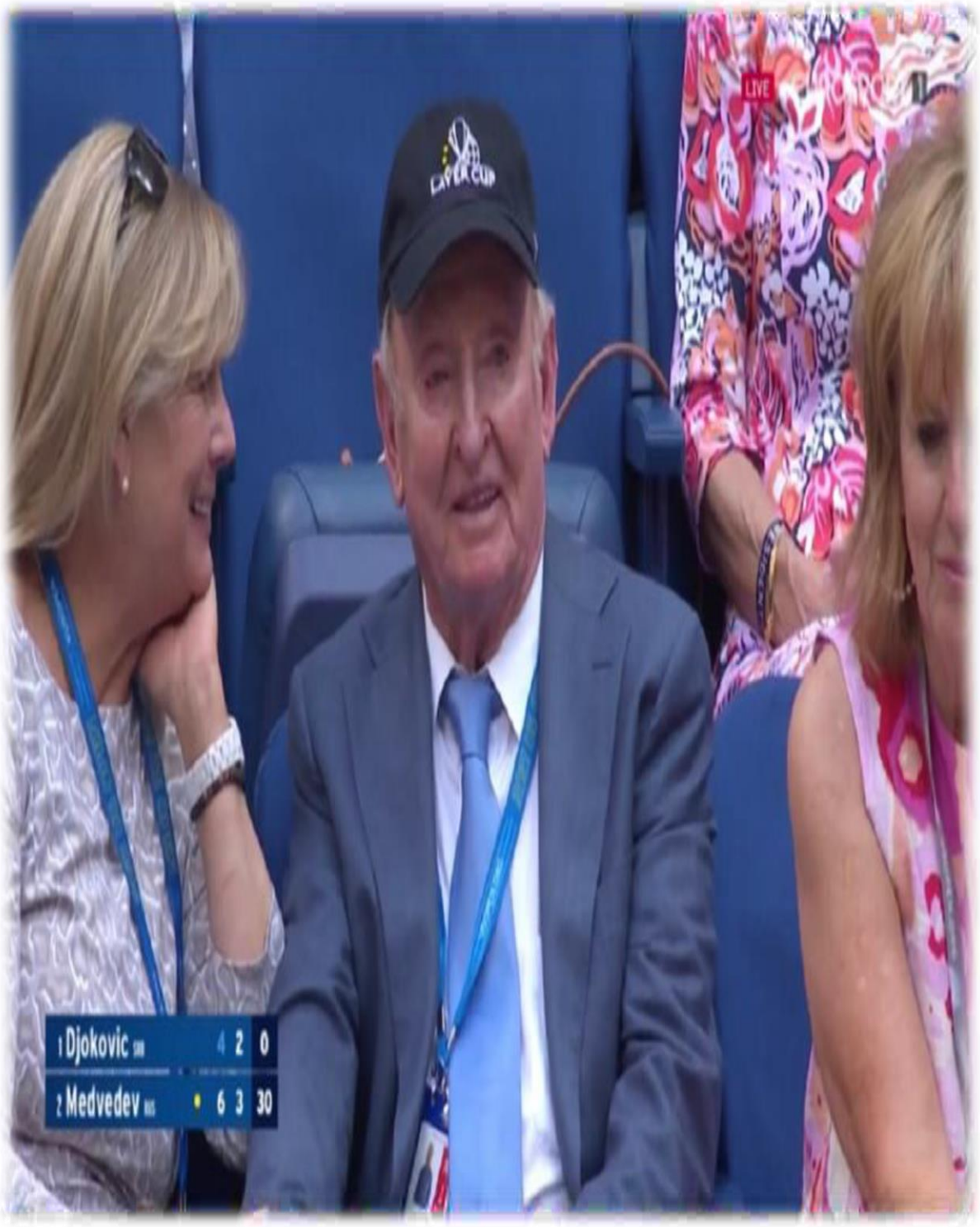

Rod Laver
AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY



Rod Laver in attendance at US Open [2021] final to see if Novak Djokovic joins him

Former Wimbledon Champions, Rod Laver and Bjorn Borg look on during the Centre Court Centenary Ceremony during day seven of The Championships Wimbledon 2022 at All England LawnTennis and Croquet Club on July 3, 2022 in London.

Former Wimbledon champions Rod Laver (left), Bjorn Borg (centre) and Venus Williams during day seven of the 2022 Wimbledon Championships at the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, Wimbledon on Sunday July 3, 2022.

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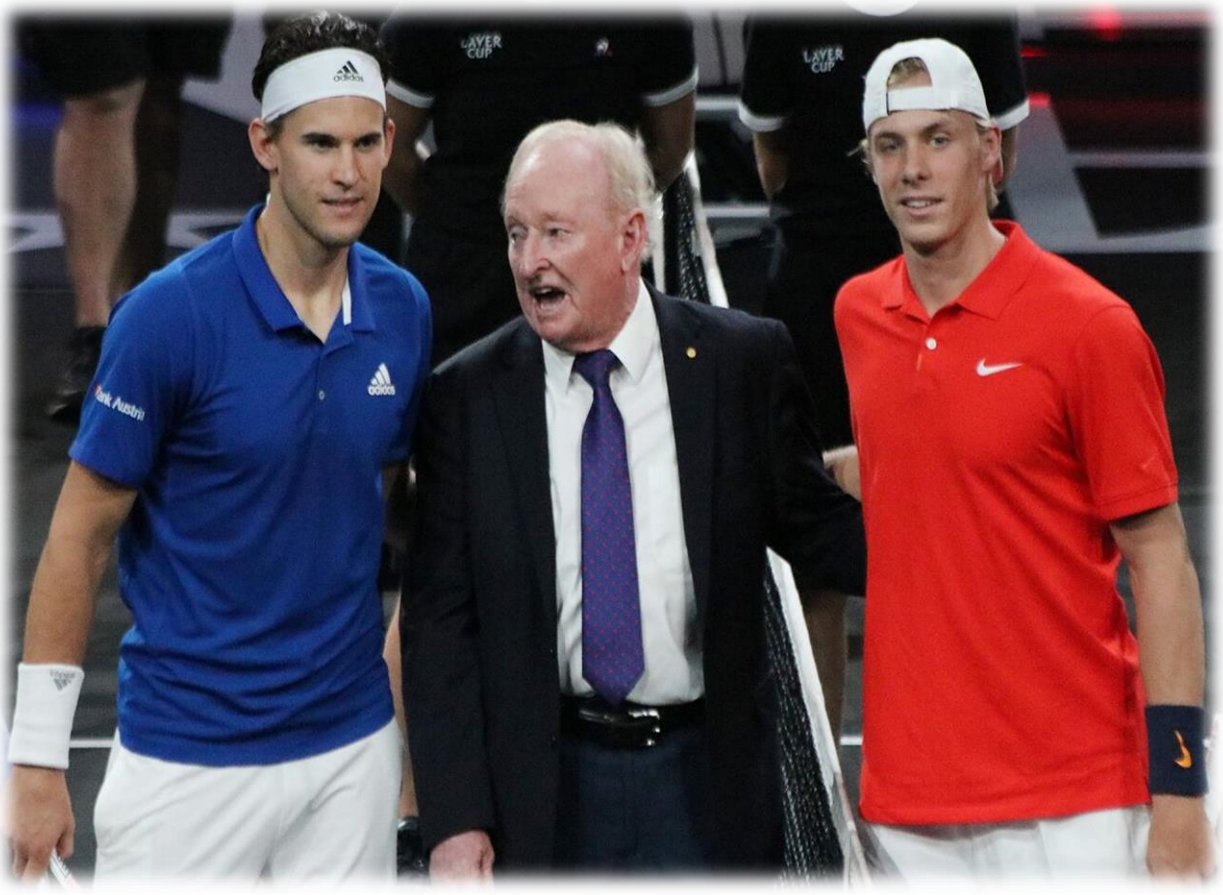
Ryan Pierse

Bjorn Borg, Pete Sampras Roger Federer, and Rod Laver

Australian Open 2022: Rafael Nadal's moment with Rod Laver.

Rod Laver did not miss Ashleigh Barty creating history at the Rod Laver Arena, by winning Australian Open 2022.



Laver Cup 2022

J.P.Morgan

Australian legend Rod Laver on Thursday proclaimed Roger Federer as the greatest player of all time, but with Rafael Nadal not far behind.

Roger Federer traded shots with his hero Rod Laver on Wednesday in the stadium that bears the Australian great's name.

alamy - 2AR91RJ

Performance at a Glance

Grand Slam record singles:

- Australian Open W (1960, **1962, 1969**)
- French Open W (**1962**, **1969**)
- Wimbledon W (1961, **1962**,1968,**1969**)
- US Open W (**1962**,**1969**)

Doubles:

- Australian Open W (1959,1960,1961,1969)
- French Open W (1961)
- Wimbledon W (1970)
- US Open F (1960, 1970,1973)

Mixed:

- Australian Open F (1959)
- French Open W (1961)
- Wimbledon W (1959,1960)
- Team competition: Davis Cup W (1959,1960,1961,1962,1973)

Laver was known for his speed and thunderous left arm, which earned him the nickname "Rocket". He soared above the sport both as an amateur and a professional.

He grew up playing on a court rolled on his family's cattle farm in outback Queensland.

As a small boy he built his game around his gifts of speed and power, honing them with relentless determination and passion.

At 15 he came under the eye of Australia's legendary Davis Cup Captain Harry Hopman who suggested he leave school and move to

Brisbane to concentrate on tennis. Within three years (1956) he was in the Davis Cup team. His first Grand Slam singles title came in 1960.

Laver was aggressive. He used his power and accuracy to pin opponents into corners of the court and his speed to come to net and finish them off.

He once said he wasn't a great orator, preferring to let his racquet do the talking – it spoke beautifully delivering with thundering volume. Although his curling, left arm topspin was created on grass courts, he won in all conditions and surfaces.

In 1962 he won the Grand Slam – four majors in one year – plus the Italian and German titles.

Australia won the Davis Cup on Laver's home courts in Brisbane defeating Mexico 5-0. He won both his singles matches and the doubles with Roy Emerson.

He did all this while working to make ends meet and cover his expenses, so the following season Laver turned professional and in doing so disqualified himself from the Grand Slam tournaments.

For five seasons, while in his prime, he played exhibition matches on the fledgling professional tennis circuit. Starting in 1966 he won 19 consecutive tournaments on the US professional circuit.

In 1968 professional players were allowed back into the traditional fold in what was the start of the open era.

Laver took up where he had left off, winning an astonishing second Grand Slam in 1969. In doing so he etched his legend but also acted as a bridge between the eras. In 1971 he became the first player to pass one million dollars in prizemoney proving to other players that they could and should earn a good living as entertainers.

Anyone who saw Rocket Rod Laver play will remember his power, speed

and accuracy. They also saw a humble man who knew the work required for greatness and the respect and love that needed to be shown to opponents and the sport itself. It remains an eternal spring of inspiration for future generations.

Following is his Performance in three stages, as an amateur, as a professional and in Open Era, in international tennis:

Amateur (53)							Professional (72)						Open Era (73)									Total
1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	
0	2	3	1	9	16	22	6	11	17	16	19	3	10	18	15	7	5	7	6	5	0	**198**

Davis Cup

Laver won 16 out of 20 Davis Cup singles matches and all four of his doubles. Laver was a member of the victorious Australian Davis Cup teams in 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962 and 1973.

Laver helped Australia win the Davis Cup four consecutive times from 1959 to 1962. In 1973, professionals were permitted to play in the Davis Cup for the first time, and Laver was on a winning team for the fifth time, claiming two singles and a doubles rubber in the final as Australia beat the United States 5–0.

Australia was crowned Davis Cup champions in each of the five seasons Laver played in the competition. Laver won 16 out of 20 Davis Cup singles matches and all four of his doubles.

To know more micro-level details, please visit the following web pages:

01] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rod_Laver_career_statistics

02] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rod_Laver

03] https://www.tennisfame.com/hall-of-famers/inductees/rod-laver

04] https://www.atptour.com/en/players/rod-laver/l058/overview

05] https://lavercup.com/rod-laver

06]https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rod_Laver_career_statistics#:~:text=This_is_a_list_of,Jack_Kramer's_professional_circuit.

Biography

Rod Laver

Rod "Rocket" Laver has been called the greatest tennis player of the twentieth century, and for good reason. He is the only player in the history of tennis to win two Grand Slams—taking the singles titles of the Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon, and the U.S. Open in a single year. His first Grand Slam came in 1962, while he was still an amateur, but when later that year he turned professional, he was no longer eligible to play those tournaments. With the advent of the Open era in 1968, however, pros like Laver were once again allowed to compete in the Grand Slam tournaments, and the Australian wonder once again scored the Royal Flush of tennis, winning his second Grand Slam in 1969. Tennis historians contend that, had Laver been able to play in those intervening years, he may have won as many as nine Wimbledon in a row and no telling how many Grand Slams.

Chronology

1938 :> Born August 9 in Rockhampton, Queensland, Australia, to Roy Stanley and Melba Laver

1944:> From the age of six Laver begins competing against his older brothers in tennis matches

1951 :> Loses to his older brother Bon in the Central Queensland junior final

1953 :> Quits school to devote full time to tennis, coached by Harry

1956 :> Wins the U.S. junior championship

1957 :> Serves in the Australian Army

1958 :> Upsets American Barry MacKay in the second round of Queen's Club Tournament and gains international notice

1959 :> Playing with the Australian Davis Cup team, Laver helps to beat the United States

1959 :> Loses in the finals of the U.S. singles championship at Forest Hills

1960 :> Wins his first Australian singles title

1961 :> Wins his first Wimbledon singles title, but loses at Forest Hills in the finals

1961 :> Offered $33,000 to join Jack Kramer's pro tour, but refuses

1962 :> Scores his first Grand Slam, winning the singles championships in Australia, France, England, and the United States, the first tennis player to do so since America's Don Budge in 1938

1962 :> Turns professional, signing a three-year, $110,000 contract, and is thus barred for the next five years from participation in amateur championships

1964 :> Wins U.S. Pro singles title

1966-70:>Wins 19 consecutive titles in the U.S. Pro circuit

1968 :> With advent of Open era in tennis, Laver resumes play in Grand Slam tournaments, winning Wimbledon in a final lasting less than an hour

1969 :> Wins his second Grand Slam, a record no other tennis player has equalled

1971 :> Earns a record $292,000, boosting his overall tennis earnings to over a million, the highest of any tennis player

1972 :> Plays in finals of first World Championship of Tennis

1973:> Allowed to play Davis Cup again, helping Australia to win the cup away from the United States

1976:> Signs with World Team Tennis and named Rookie of the Year at age 38

1978 :> Retires from tennis

1981:> Inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame

1999 :> Suffers a stroke and has to re-learn how to play tennis

2000 :> Center court at Australia's Melbourne Park, home of the Australian Open, is named Rod Laver Court in his honour

Amateur Years

After serving a year in the Australian Army in 1957, Laver was again back in the amateur rankings, and in June of 1958 surprised one of America's top-seeded players, Barry MacKay, knocking him out of the second round of London's Queen's Club Tournament, 6-3, 6-3. This victory was an announcement to the tennis world: Laver was at the gates. At the time of his victory over MacKay, Laver was ranked only eighth in Australia, demonstrating the depth of tennis talent Down Under. In 1959 Laver, who had to wait his turn until older players either retired or turned pro, was finally selected for his country's Davis Cup team, along with Neale Fraser and Roy Emerson. The Australians defeated the Americans that year, and though Laver lost twice—one of the losses in 66 games to Alex Olmedo—his performance did not go unnoticed. Arthur Dale of the **New York Times** noted that "Laver's performance in defeat made the victory of The Chief [Olmedo] all the more noteworthy. The twenty-one-year-old left-hander [Laver] made chalk shots that would have discouraged anyone less hardy." Already Laver was developing his

reputation for risky play and line shots that sent the chalk spitting. Laver lost again to Olmedo at Forest Hills, going all the way to the finals.

Lead Up to First Grand Slam

The year 1960 was pivotal for Laver. In the first major tournament of the year, the Australian National championships, he faced his Davis Cup teammate Fraser in the finals. Down two sets, Laver came back to win his first major title, 5-7, 3-6, 6-3, 8-6, 8-6. Laver did not have a perfect tennis body. Relatively short, at only 5'8" and weighing about 155 pounds, his speed and agility on court made up for his lack of height. In his playing years, Laver was compact, and his left forearm had developed, after hitting thousands of tennis balls, into Popeye dimensions, as big as that of Rocky Marciano, boxing's heavyweight champion. In addition to his wristy, topspin forehand, Laver combined strength of will and determination on the court. He had no weaknesses for his opponents to attack. Though his serve was not huge, he could disguise it well and place it in the corners of the service box. He also was good at net, learning an aggressive game from Hopman, but particularly excelled from the backcourt. Hopman had also schooled Laver in behavior on and off the court. A true sportsman, he played a generally quiet game, and was an intensely private individual, giving few interviews.

That same year, 1960, Fraser avenged his defeat at the Australian singles by beating Laver in the finals at Wimbledon and at Forest Hills, though Laver was able to take home a trophy from the United States championships that year, in mixed doubles. From rivals, Laver and Fraser returned to being teammates to beat Italy in the Davis Cup finals in December of 1960. Laver failed to defend his Australian championship in 1961, losing in the finals, as he did at Forest Hills, as

well. But he was more successful at Wimbledon, defeating his American opponent, Chuck McKinley, in a mere 55 minutes. Following the matches at Forest Hills that year, the former player and now organizer of professional tennis, Jack Kramer, offered Laver $33,600 to come on his pro tour, but the Aussie refused. He had his sights still set on the Grand Slam tournaments to which he would be barred if he turned pro.

Tennis Player/Coach Harry Hopman

Harry Hopman's name is synonymous with Australian tennis in the two decades prior to the Open era. As captain of the Australian Davis Cup team from 1950 to 1969, he gathered a group of players around him who he groomed in the finest aspects of the gentlemanly game of tennis. Called Hop by his friends, his "genius," according to E. Digby Baltzell in *Sporting Gentlemen: Men's Tennis from the Age of Honor to the Cult of the Superstar,* "was to take a wide variety of boys and mold them into a cohesive team of gentlemen…. Harry Hopman was a great organizer, disciplinarian, and believer in the virtues of the gentleman." Among the players he groomed were Frank Sedgman, Ken McGregor, Lew Hoad, Kenny Rosewall, Mal Anderson, Ashley Cooper, Neale Fraser, Roy Emerson, John Newcombe, Fred Stolle, Tony Roche, and most famously of all, Rod Laver. He gave his name to a tennis epoch, the Hopman Era, the decades in the 1950s and 1960s when the Australians dominated amateur tennis.

Born August 12, 1906, in Glebe, New South Wales, Hopman played tennis himself, and was a singles finalist in the Australian championships in the early 1930s. He was also a fine doubles player, winning the Australian doubles in 1929 and 1930, and twice a runner-up in the French doubles title. He and his wife, Nell, won the Australian mixed doubles twice. However it was as a talent spotter,

coach, and captain of the Australian Davis Cup team for which Hopman is best remembered. Childless, Hopman and his wife poured their energies into tennis and the young men coming up through the ranks in Australian tennis. Hopman led his team to 16 Cups between his first captaincy in 1939 and near the end of his reign in 1967. Hopman emphasized fitness, pride, and most of all, gentlemanly behavior.

Hopwood last served as Australian Davis Cup captain in 1969, and after the loss to Mexico, he immigrated to the United States and became a successful teaching pro. With his wife, he opened his own camp, the Hopman Tennis Academy, in Largo, Florida. He was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in 1978, and died on December 27, 1985. The Hopman Cup tournament was named after him, the first competition held in 1989.

Laver began the tennis year of 1962 with a bang, beating Roy Emerson in the finals of the Australian championship. He beat Emerson again consecutively in Paris and Rome, though his was two sets down in the French championships, and then at Wimbledon he demolished his fellow countryman Martin Mulligan in less than 52 minutes, 6-2, 6-2, 6-1. With three of the four majors under his belt coming into the U.S. championships, Laver was all the buzz at the 1962 Forest Hills tournament. As Lardner noted of that year's tournament, "this hawk-nosed, freckle-faced, bowlegged Australian is a prime product of the almost unbeatable Australian system of spotting, nurturing and financing its best tennis players from the cradle." The world's press, fans, and other tennis players were wondering if Laver would be able to repeat **Don Budge** 's accomplishment of winning all four majors in one year. Laver tore through the early rounds of the tournament, and then faced one of his usual Australian rivals, Emerson, in the finals. Laver hit "wildly spinning, hard, shoe-top-high shots almost impossible to volley," wrote Lardner of the match. "Very often he hit the ball so

fast that Emerson could merely watch as it skimmed by." Laver won in four sets and after tossing his racquet in the air, finally cracked a smile, his first of the tournament. Later that same year, Laver teamed up with Emerson in Davis Cup to defeat Mexico, bringing the Cup home for their country for the eleventh time in 13 years. It would be his last Davis Cup competition for over a decade.

Turns Pro

Laver announced in late December of 1962 that he was joining the International Professional Tennis Players Association, whose members had chipped in to guarantee him $110,000 for the next three-year period. In the early days of pro tennis, such a contract was very lucrative, indeed. In his first pro match, Laver lost to fellow Australian Lew Hoad, and went on to lose his next three professional matches, as well, until settling into the pro ranks. A long and vigorous rivalry began between Laver and Australian Kenny Rosewall, another of Hopman's students. Rosewall beat Laver in the 1963 U.S. Pro singles, but in 1964, Laver turned around to beat Rosewall and **Pancho Gonzalez** to win the first of five of those titles. Life in the pros was, however, far from romantic or even illustrious. In those days it meant long drives in a station wagon from one gym to another across the country, playing exhibition matches in front of a few hundred spectators at best. Once the evenings double match was finally concluded, perhaps as late as one in the morning, the players piled into their cars and drove a few hours in the darkness toward their next destination, then stayed at some roadside motel, got up in the late morning, and continued on their way to the next venue. The 1964 final, in which he beat Gonzalez, was indicative of the difficulties of the early pro tour. Laver and Gonzalez played in a raging storm that turned Boston's grass courts into a swamp, but the show had to go on and

Laver managed to pull off some amazing shots to win the title, even under such inclement conditions.

Disappointingly, Laver's decision to turn pro eliminated him from competition in the world's major titles, still amateur affairs. Thus, he missed the years 1963-1967 at any of the Grand Slams. Only when open tennis began in 1968 could he attempt to reproduce his former greatness at those events. That year at Roland Garros, Laver again lost to Rosewall in the finals, 6-3, 6-1, 2-6, 6-2. Returning to Wimbledon for the first time in five championships, he took the tournament, defeating Tony Roche in under an hour. The advent of open tennis also increased prize money available to the players. Whereas in 1968, there were only two prize-money tournaments in the U.S., with combined winnings of $130,000, by 1969 the U.S. Open alone offered a larger purse, and all the U.S. tournaments combined were worth $440,000. Worldwide, prize money had grown to $1.3 million, and Laver garnered $124,000 of that, becoming the top money winner. But Laver was after an even bigger prize than money in the 1969 season.

Wins Second And Historic Grand Slam

Laver's first strong competition in his run for a second Grand Slam came early in the year at the Australian Open when he and Roche played 80 games over four hours under the melting Brisbane sun in the semifinals. The second set alone was a 22-20 marathon lasting longer than many full matches. Both players resorted to the old Australian trick of sticking cabbage leaves in their hats to avoid sunstroke. Surviving that, partly as the result of a questionable line call against Roche, Laver had a relatively easy final, defeating Andres Gimeno in straight sets. There was another scare at the French open when another Australian, Dick Crealy, took a couple sets off him in

the second round, but Laver came back to win that one and ultimately beat Rosewall in straight sets in the finals. Laver was again challenged at Wimbledon, two sets down in the second round, but went on to win that match and subsequent rounds against Stan Smith, **Arthur Ashe**, and John Newcombe to take Wimbledon for the fourth time.

Laver moved on to the U.S. Open, still played on grass in 1969, ready for a repeat of his 1962 amateur Grand Slam. Record crowds greeted this first hyped U.S. Open, until the rains set in. Still Laver prevailed, cruising through opponents, and ultimately having to wear spikes on the slippery court in the final against Roche, which he won in four sets. The prize money presented him that day—a check for $16,000—took second place to Laver's elation at his second slam. This one, also, was sweeter than his first, for in 1962 some of the best players in the world had already turned pro and thus had not been allowed to play. In 1969, Laver met the best in the world, amateur or pro, and bested them all.

Sets The Pro Example

For Laver, 1970 was a let-down after the glory of 1969. Not only was he unable to retain any of his Grand Slam titles, but he also lost the U.S. Pro title for the first time since 1966. One consolation, however, was the fact that he became the first player to exceed $200,000 in annual earnings in the pro ranks, winning more prize money than golf's leading money earner that year, **Lee Trevino** . The following year, though failing to win any major tournaments but the Italian Open, Laver was victorious in six of 25 smaller tournaments, winning 78 of 86 matches. His prize earnings for that year escalated to $292,717, making him the first career millionaire in professional tennis. The World Championship of Tennis was held in 1972, in Dallas, Texas, with Rosewall and Laver once again doing battle in what some observers

have called the greatest match of the century, a five-set battle that has been "credited with establishing tennis as a sport worth televising," according to Mike Lupica in an *Esquire* article.

In 1973, pros were allowed to compete in Davis Cup for the first time, and Laver teamed up with John Newcombe to end the United States' five-year stranglehold on the cup. Laver also played a big part in Australia's victories in the 1972, 1974, and 1975 World Cups, a team competition which has since been discontinued. Laver continued to play on the pro circuit until 1978. As late as 1976, at 38 years of age, he signed with San Diego in World Team Tennis. When he finally decided to call it quits in 1978, he left behind an illustrious career including two Grand Slams, 11 major titles, 47 pro titles, and 13 years in the World Top Ten. Additionally, he had earned over $1.5 million in his career, making him the all-time money winner of his day.

Laver's Legacy

In Laver's 23-year career, he won four Wimbledon titles, three Australian, two French, and two U.S. singles, and led Australia to five Davis Cup victories. It is doubtful that his record of two Grand Slams will be matched, especially with the heightened level of play in the competitive Open era. "Laver is widely rated as the best tennis player the world has seen, both for his 1962 and 1969 Grand Slams and the powerful style that won them," wrote Lisa Clausen in a *Time* magazine retrospective of the 100 sports greats of the twentieth century. "He was master of a left-handed topspin that overwhelmed his opponents, who also struggled to counter his tremendous speed around the court."

But it is not simply his play for which Laver will be remembered. He was truly one of the last gentlemen in the game as tennis spun out of the amateur ranks and into its professional stage. However, Laver was

also realist enough to know that you could not be too much of a gentleman on court. "Sportsmanship is the essence of the game," he wrote in *The Education of a Tennis Player*, "and yet you do not want to be too good a sport. Or what I call a false sportsman." This middle ground was characteristic of the understated Laver style. Somewhat unassuming and quiet on court, Laver yet brought a love and intensity to the game of tennis that attracted and inspired a new generation of players, from McEnroe to Sampras. Through his personal model he showed players that an honorable living could be made in professional tennis, and in his career, spanning both amateur and open tennis, he became the epitome of the modern player-turned-businessman.

Where Is He Now?

Following his 1978 retirement, Laver remained involved in tennis, playing on the senior tour. However, retirement from tennis did not mean an end to work for the Australian. For many years he worked for Nabisco Brands, acting as an ambassador for Nabisco's involvement in various worldwide sporting events. As such he ran tennis clinics, gave speeches, and shook a lot of hands. Three years after retirement from tennis, Laver was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame.

Real retirement came later for Laver when he moved to Rancho Mirage, California, a suburb of Palm Springs, and took to playing golf as much as he did tennis. In 1999, during an interview, he suffered a stroke. Luckily the interviewer recognized the signs, and Laver was rushed to nearby UCLA Medical Center, getting immediate care. The stroke destroyed the sensory receptors on his right side. Laver, one of the greatest tennis players of all time, had to relearn how to play the game he loves. Tennis became, in fact, part of his therapy. Working with speech and physical therapists, Laver slowly recovered

his speech and movement. "I still have a little way to go," Laver told a reporter for *Sports Illustrated*, "but I'm very happy with my performance. I feel I'm going to get all the way back." In 2000, Laver was honored by his native Australia when its tennis federation named center court at Melbourne Park, home of the Australian Open, after him. On hand for the naming ceremony, Laver said, "I am delighted to accept this wonderful honor. This is a crowning achievement to my tennis career."

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To choose just one moment to celebrate in Rod Laver's glorious career is near impossible. The Rockhampton-born "Rocket" is, after all, feted as the winner of an unmatched 200 tournaments, and twice a winner of the coveted calendar-year Grand Slam.

Laver CUP

Honouring a Legend

Grand Slam record singles:

- Australian Open W (1960, **1962, 1969**)
- French Open W (**1962**, **1969**)
- Wimbledon W (1961, **1962**,1968,**1969**)
- US Open W (**1962**,**1969**)

Doubles:

- Australian Open W (1959,1960,1961,1969)
- French Open W (1961)
- Wimbledon W (1970)
- US Open F (1960, 1970,1973)

Mixed:

- Australian Open F (1959)
- French Open W (1961)
- Wimbledon W (1959,1960)
- Team competition: Davis Cup W (1959,1960,1961,1962,1973)

Please visit: https://lavercup.com/

Background:

The tournament is named after Australian Rod Laver, a tennis player widely regarded as one of the greatest in the history of the sport (He won all four major titles in the same calendar year, winning the Grand Slam twice in singles, in 1962 and 1969; still, the latter remains the only player had done till 2022.) Roger Federer's management company, TEAM8, Brazilian businessman and former Davis Cup player Jorge Paulo Lemann, and Tennis Australia partnered to create the Laver Cup. Roger Federer was inspired to create a tennis team tournament based on the biennial Ryder Cup golf tournament, which features the best golfers from the United States playing against the best golfers from Europe. However, Laver Cup differs as it is purely an invitational event based on past historical performances; selection of (and the playing agreement with) the tournament participants are not automatically based from the highest ranked players of the recent ATP Tour world rankings.

Selection of Team:

Europe v. The World

Each team is comprised of six players, and led by a team captain, who is a legend of the sport. The captain of Europe is **Bjorn Borg**, and the captain of Team World is **John McEnroe.**

Three of the six players qualify based on their ATP singles ranking as of the Monday following the French Open. Three are "captain's picks", announced by the start of the US Open.

Format:

The event consists of five sessions – **THREE** day sessions and **TWO** night sessions - played over three days (Friday – Sunday).

Both singles and doubles are best of three sets with ad scoring. In the event of split sets, the third set is a 10-point match tiebreaker.

Friday's line-up is announced on Thursday afternoon.
Saturday's line-up is announced an hour after play ends on Friday night.
Sunday's line-up is announced an hour after play ends on Saturday night.
Match-ups are determined through the exchange of line-up cards by the captains.

Schedule of the Tournament:

Day ONE <:> Friday			Points available
DAY Session			
Europe	Match 1: Singles	The World	4 (4x1)
Europe	Match 2: Singles	The World	
NIGHT Session			
Europe	Match 3: Singles	The World	
Europe	Match 4: Doubles	The World	
Day TWO <:> Saturday			
DAY Session			
Europe	Match 5: Singles	The World	8 (4x2)
Europe	Match 6: Singles	The World	
NIGHT Session			
Europe	Match 7: Singles	The World	
Europe	Match 8: Doubles	The World	
Day THREE <:> Sunday			
DAY Session			
Europe	Match 9: Singles	The World	12 (4xx3)
Europe	Match 10: Singles	The World	
Europe	Match 11: Singles	The World	
Europe	Match 12: Doubles	The World	
TOTAL Points available			24

Note:

This schedule and format is provisional and is subject to alteration without notice (for example, the starting time of sessions may change if the tournament is behind schedule).

Scoring of Points:

Each player competes in at least one singles match during the first two days.

No player can play singles more than twice during the three days.

At least four of the six players must play doubles. No doubles combination is played more than once, unless for the Decider on Day 3, if points are 12:12.

The winning team must reach 13 points.

In the event of a tie after all 12 matches are played, a final overtime doubles match – a Decider – is played as a regular set with ad scoring and a tiebreak.

In the event that only one match is required on Sunday, an exhibition match is played following the trophy ceremony.

Location:

- The location of the Laver Cup rotates between Europe and the rest of the world cities each year.
- The event takes place every year, the second week after the US Open.
- Laver Cup 2023 will take place in Vancouver at Rogers Arena from September 22-24, 2023.
- Laver Cup 2024 will take place in Berlin at Mercedes-Benz Arena from September 20-22, 2024

Captains

Europe	Team	**The World**
Bjorn Borg	Name	John McEnroe
6 June 1956	Born	16 February 1959
Stockholm, Sweden	Birthplace	Wiesbaden, Germany
Sweden	Nationality	United States
Right-handed (two-handed backhand)	Style	Left-handed (one-handed backhand)
1973	Turned Pro	1978
1983	Retired	1992
11	Grand Slam Records	7
•Australian Open (Third round 1974) •Roland Garros **W** (1974, 1975, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981) •Wimbledon **W** (1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980) •US Open **F** (1976, 1978, 1980, 1981)	Grand Slam - Singles	•Australian Open **SF** (1983) •Roland Garros **F** (1984) •Wimbledon **W** (1981, 1983, 1984) •US Open (1979, 1980, 1981, 1984)
109	Remains at No.1 (weeks)	170
Davis Cup W (1975)	Team Records	Davis Cup W (1978, 1979, 1981, 1982, 1992)

Laver Cup

Summary of Matches [2017 - 2022]

[No play in 2020, due to Pandemic]

Winners:

Team Europe: 4

Team World: 1

Team	Matches (Points) won												Laver Cups won
	Day 1 (1 point)			Day 2 (2 points)			Day 3 (3 points)			Total			
	Singles	Doubles	Total	Singles	Doubles	Total	Singles	Doubles	Total	Singles	Doubles	Total	
	13 (13)	1 (1)	14 (14)	11 (22)	3 (6)	14 (28)	6 (18)	1 (3)	7 (21)	30 (53)	5 (10)	35 (63)	4
	2 (2)	4 (4)	6 (6)	4 (8)	2 (4)	6 (12)	4 (12)	4 (12)	8 (24)	10 (22)	10 (20)	20 (42)	1

2022

The fifth edition was held in London from 23 to 25 September 2022, at the O2 Arena. This tournament marked the retirement of Roger Federer. **Team World defeated Team Europe for the first time by a margin of 13–8.**

Team Europe	
Captain: Björn Borg	
Player	**Rank**
Casper Ruud	2
Rafael Nadal*	3
Stefanos Tsitsipas	6
Novak Djokovic	7
Andy Murray	43
Roger Federer*	*nr*
Matteo Berrettini*	15
Cameron Norrie*	8

Team World	
Captain: John McEnroe	
Player	**Rank**
Taylor Fritz	12
Félix Auger-Aliassime	13
Diego Schwartzman	17
Frances Tiafoe	19
Alex de Minaur	22
Jack Sock	128

- Singles rankings as of 19 September 2022
- nr = not ranked
- = Federer and Nadal only played a doubles match on Day 1, and were replaced by alternates Berrettini and Norrie from Day 2.

Team World defeated Team Europe to win the Laver Cup 2022 for the first time.

Team World defeated **Team Europe** to win the Laver Cup 2022 for the first time. Team World defeats Team Europe 13-8 to win the **Laver Cup indoor tennis tournament**. Frances Tiafoe and Felix Auger of Team World defeated Stefanos Tsitsipas & Novak Djokovic of Team Europe to win the competition. Laver Cup is an international indoor hard-court tournament between Team Europe & Team World. Players from all continents, besides Europe, represent Team World.

The 2022 Laver Cup was the fifth edition of the Laver Cup, a men's tennis tournament between teams from Europe and the rest of the world. It was held on an indoor hard court at The O2 Arena in London, England. This tournament marked the retirement of 20-time singles major champion and former singles world No. 1, Roger Federer. The former champion alongside long-time rival Rafael Nadal was narrowly defeated in the third-set super tiebreak against Jack Sock and Frances Tiafoe.

The total prize money for 2022 Laver Cup is set at $2,250,000 for all 12 participating players. Each winning team member will pocket $250,000, which marks no increase in prize money compared to 2021.

2021

The fourth edition was held in Boston from 24 to 26 September 2021, at the TD Garden. It was originally scheduled for September 2020, but was postponed because of the COVID-19 pandemic to avoid overlapping with the 2020 French Open, which was also rescheduled. **Team Europe defeated Team World 14–1.**

Team Europe	
Captain: Björn Borg	
Player	**Rank**
Daniil Medvedev	2
Stefanos Tsitsipas	3
Alexander Zverev	4
Andrey Rublev	5
Matteo Berrettini	7
Casper Ruud	10

Team World	
Captain: John McEnroe	
Player	**Rank**
Félix Auger-Aliassime	11
Denis Shapovalov	12
Diego Schwartzman	15
Reilly Opelka	19
John Isner	22
Nick Kyrgios	95

- Singles rankings as of 20 September 2021

Winner [2021]: Team Europe

Team Europe win fourth consecutive Laver Cup

Sep 26, 2021; Boston, MA, USA; Andrey Rublev and Alexander Zverev lift up the Rod Laver Cup for Team Europe at TD Garden Team Europe beat Team World 14-1.

2019

The third edition was held in Geneva, Switzerland from 20 to 22 September 2019, at the Palexpo. Roger Federer ensured the destiny of Laver Cup 2019 will come down to the final match as he defeated Team World's John Isner in front of passionate home support at Palexpo, Geneva. Team Europe defeated Team World 13–11.

Team Europe	
Captain: Björn Borg	
Player	**Rank**
Rafael Nadal	2
Roger Federer	3
Dominic Thiem	5
Alexander Zverev	6
Stefanos Tsitsipas	7
Fabio Fognini	11

Team World	
Captain: John McEnroe	
Player	**Rank**
John Isner	20
Milos Raonic	24
Nick Kyrgios	27
Taylor Fritz	30
Denis Shapovalov	33
Jack Sock	210

❖ Singles rankings as of 16 September 2019

Roger Federer has a Dream Come True Moment after Team Europe lifts Laver Cup 2019 Trophy in Switzerland,

Roger Federer shared a heartfelt message on Tuesday after Team Europe's victory in Laver Cup 2019. The Swiss tennis star shared a heart-warming message on Twitter while posting a photo of his Laver Cup 2019 teammates. He Called playing Laver Cup 2019 in Switzerland as a dream come true.

2018

The second edition was held in Chicago from 21 to 23 September 2018, at the United Center. Team Europe defeated Team World 13–8.

Team Europe	
Captain: Björn Borg	
Player	**Rank**
Roger Federer	2
Novak Djokovic	3
Alexander Zverev	5
Grigor Dimitrov	7
David Goffin	11
Kyle Edmund	16

Team World	
Captain: John McEnroe	
Player	**Rank**
Kevin Anderson	9
John Isner	10
Diego Schwartzman	14
Jack Sock	17
Nick Kyrgios	27
Frances Tiafoe	40

- Singles rankings as of 17 September 2018

Winner [2018]: Team Europe

Team Europe are Laver Cup champions for the second time after Sasha Zverev pulled off the win against Kevin Anderson 6-7(3) 7-5 10-7 to bag the winning points and seal a 13-8 victory for Team Europe at the United Center in Chicago.

2017

The first edition was held in Prague from 22 to 24 September 2017, at the O2 Arena. **Team Europe defeated Team World 15–9.**

Team Europe	
Captain: Björn Borg	
Player	**Rank**
Rafael Nadal	1
Roger Federer	2
Alexander Zverev	4
Marin Čilić	5
Dominic Thiem	7
Tomáš Berdych	19

Team World	
Captain: John McEnroe	
Player	**Rank**
Sam Querrey	16
John Isner	17
Nick Kyrgios	20
Jack Sock	21
Denis Shapovalov	51
Frances Tiafoe	72

✓ Singles rankings as of 18 September 2017

Roger Federer leads Team Europe to inaugural Laver Cup success [2017].

Roger Federer got the decisive win over Nick Kyrgios in Prague, coming from a set down and saving a match point to prevail 4-6 7-6 (8/6) 11-9 in a thrilling three-set match

QUOTES

of

Rod Laver

****

When you have the opportunity, you strike.

It can be a daunting prospect for any player to know that his opponent will never, ever quit.

The time your game is most vulnerable is when you're ahead; never let up.

The next point - that's all you must think about.

I like to let my racket do the talking.

The roughest thing I ever said to an umpire was, 'Are you sure?'

I often surprise myself. You can't plan some shots that go in, not unless you're on marijuana, and the only grass I'm partial to is Wimbledon's.

When you've got your man down, rub him out.

Roger Federer certainly is my claim to be the best of all time - if there is such a thing. With Rafael Nadal not far behind.

Staying interested in a match is a lot harder than many people think. Throughout my career, I've always had trouble in the early rounds of a tournament mainly because it was hard for me to psychologically get up until I got to the quarters or the semis. What happened a lot of times is that I would fall behind early, maybe even lose the first couple of sets in a five-set match and then begin to concentrate. Still, it wasn't something I could control from the start.

There's a lot of ingredients go into being a good tennis player.

Manners are manners. Jimmy Connors and Ilie Nastase have no respect. I don't want my kid seeing Nastase play. The demeanor you show on the court is important to tennis.... Maybe we (yesterday's stars) were too stereotyped. But we were told to behave or they'd take our racket away.

"An otherwise happily married couple may turn a mixed doubles game into a scene from Who's afraid of Virginia Woolf."

As a tennis player, you have a record, and that is what counts. I feel like I enjoyed myself, and I'm proud of what I accomplished.

Camaraderie builds. We travelled together to Rome, Paris, Wimbledon, the U.S., lots of places. In a way, I miss it right now. My opponents were also my best friends.

Each match is a huge effort from a physical point of view. You can only hit so many balls before your elbow or some part of your body is going to say, 'Hey, don't do that to me.'

Forty years ago, the players were like a travelling circus - we went everywhere together and were pretty good friends.

I competed hard in the heat of the battle, and there were a few occasions where I played my best in the top matches. As for the best ever? I don't think so.

I don't know much about Mauresmo apart from the fact she played great tennis. Is she a good technician? I don't know those parameters.

I don't want to get blasé about being recognised. It's pretty amazing.

I saw Kyrgios down in Australia. He played some very good tennis, won two or three matches, and has done the same here at Wimbledon. I think Australia's got a good prospect in Kyrgios.

"I wasn't embarrassed that I'd had a stroke, but I just didn't want people to think I was milking it or looking for sympathy. It happened, and I dealt with it. Afterwards, I tried to do what I could for other people who had strokes, speaking at hospitals that treated stroke victims."

I'm usually pretty good in the garden.

It can be a daunting prospect for any player to know that his opponent will never, ever quit.

It occurred to me that it would benefit me to play without emotion - well, without emotion others could see, anyway. Card players profited from having a poker face so opponents wouldn't know how good or bad their hand was, and I figured a deadpan expression would work in tennis, too.
Looking back, in comparison, there wasn't that much that you could do with a wooden racket. In my day, the matches were certainly much less demanding physically.

Players who win on a clay surface are those who can control the ball, playing steadily and accurately from the back-court, keeping the ball in play and moving it around with changes of speed and spin, and resisting the temptation to over-hit.

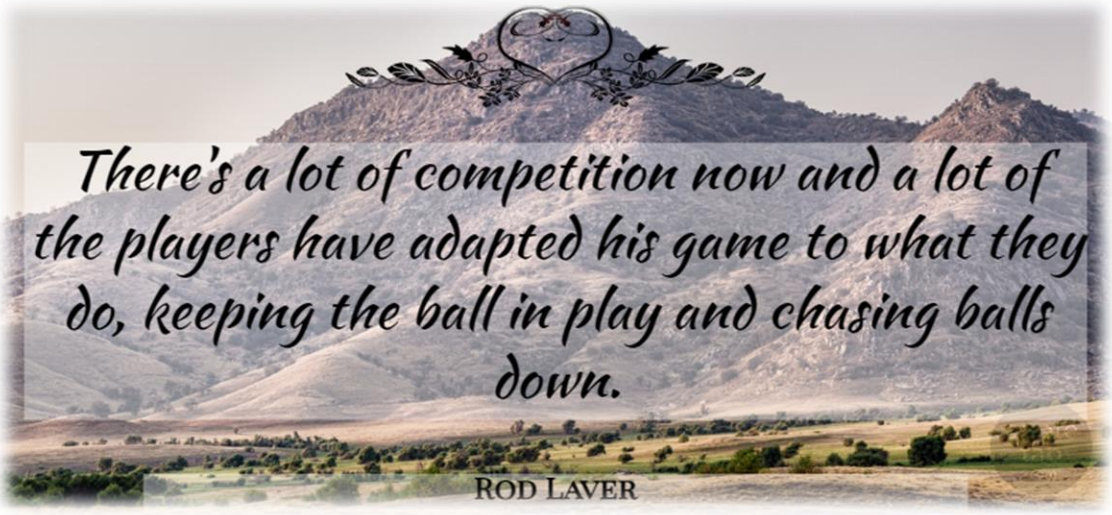
Right through school, I was a handy cricketer, a batsman and a left-arm spinner who bowled leg breaks.

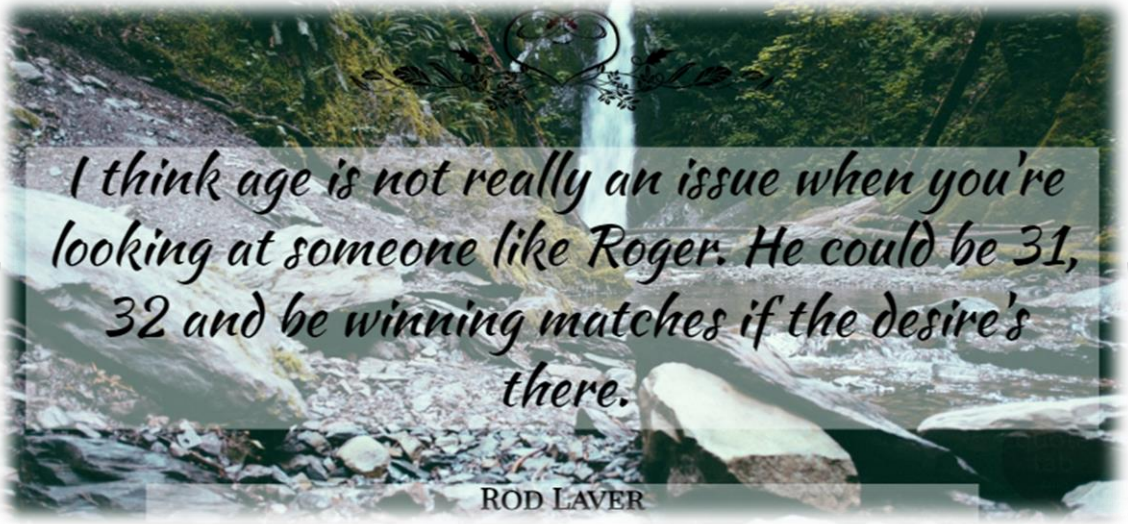
Tennis was a big part of my life from as far back as I can remember.

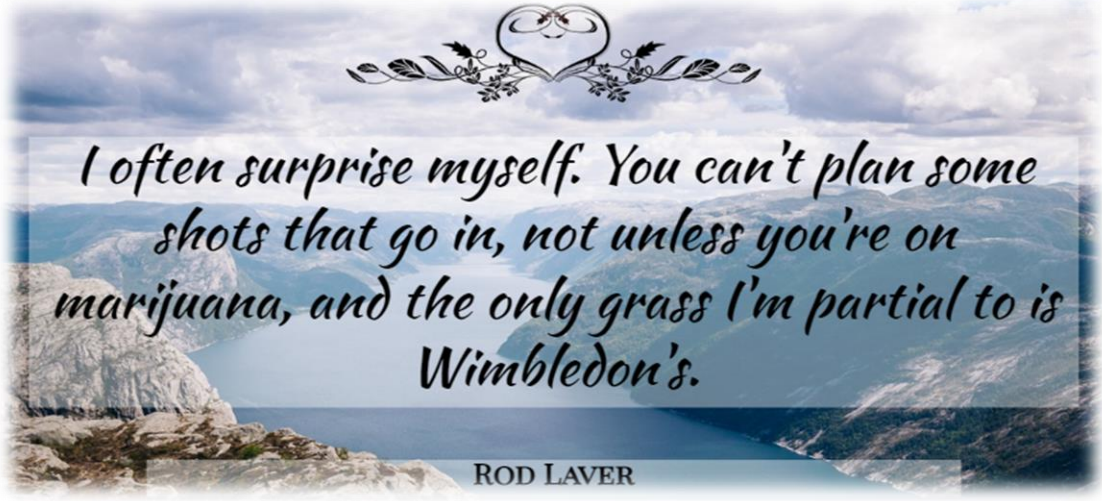
We were pretty darn good - fit and ready to play - but today's level is different. Those ground strokes are ever so much faster, coming back at you at a pretty good speed. Footwork-wise, you've got to be ready to hit that next shot. It's a tough time.

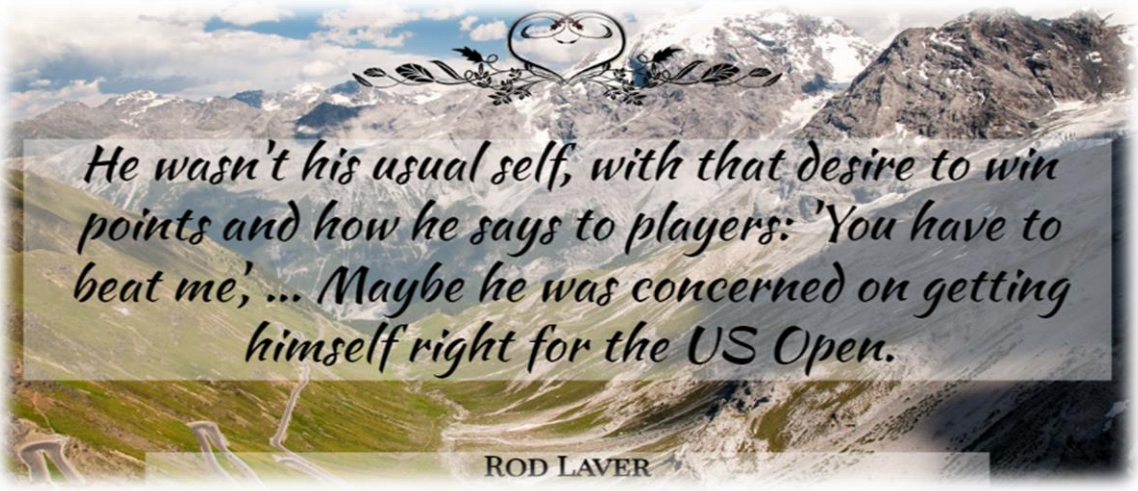
"When Hoad and Rosewall were at their best, and I was a youngster, they had no qualms about saying, 'Hey kid, let's go and play.' That helped me to get up the ladder."

Yes, I hit with heavy top-spin, but when you look at the little rackets I played with, the Maxply Dunlop, you had to hit the very centre all the time. I had my share of miss-hits.


There's a lot of competition now and a lot of the players have adapted his game to what they do, keeping the ball in play and chasing balls down.
ROD LAVER


I think age is not really an issue when you're looking at someone like Roger. He could be 31, 32 and be winning matches if the desire's there.
ROD LAVER


I often surprise myself. You can't plan some shots that go in, not unless you're on marijuana, and the only grass I'm partial to is Wimbledon's.
ROD LAVER



That's a pretty good start, and he's 24. It's certainly amazing how well he plays in the finals.
I wouldn't bet against him.

"Funny thing about the volatile and biased French crowds. While they'd prefer to be cheering a countryman and giving his foreign opponent merry hell, if there was no Frenchman in the game, they'd always support a Continental player over an Englishman, an American, or an Australian."

TOP 25 Players

Here are the 25 greatest Players of the tennis world in the Open Era, meaning since 1968.

These men come from all over the globe. From Australia to Sweden and South Africa to North America, they are all united in a common goal: to win Grand Slams.

Some did this extremely well (see Sampras, Pete) and some spent more time as the lovable runner-up (see Lendl, Ivan).

All title wins and Grand Slam victories listed are for singles only.

NN ** NN ** NN ** NN **

25a. Patrick Rafter (AUS)

- *Career Duration: 1991-2002*
- *Career Titles: 11*
- *Career Grand Slams: 2*

Rafter may very well be the last true serve-and-volley Grand Slam champion. Although he played a short career, the Aussie won back-to-back US Open titles in 1997 and 1998.

Rafter was also twice a runner-up at Wimbledon, one of those times falling to Pete Sampras.

He also won 10 doubles titles, winning the Australian Open title with doubles legend Jonas Bjorkman in 1999. He was elected into the Australian Open Hall of Fame on Australia Day in 2008.

25b. Lleyton Hewitt (AUS)

- *Career Duration: 1998-Present*
- *Career Titles: 26*
- *Career Grand Slams: 2*

Lleyton Hewitt, the fiery Australian kid who could, reached the world No. 1 ranking faster than anybody else. At 20 years and 268 days old, Hewitt became the world's best. He defeated Pete Sampras in the US Open to win his first Grand Slam title, then went on to win at Wimbledon the next year.

Hewitt also won the 2000 US Open doubles final, with Belarussian Max Mirnyi as a partner. He has been an exceptional hard court player throughout his career, and is commonly regarded as one of the elite defenders in the game.

24. Andy Roddick (USA)

- *Career Duration: 2000-Present*
- *Career Titles: 26*
- *Career Grand Slams: 1*

Roddick is the prototype Power Era player. He plays his points short and holds the ATP World Record for fastest serve, clocked at a ridiculous 155 mph.

He captured his first and only Grand Slam title to date when he defeated Juan Carlos Ferrero in straight sets at the US Open in 2003.

Roddick has also reached three other Grand Slam finals (twice in Wimbledon, once more in Flushing Meadows) but lost to Roger Federer each time. He is currently engaged to model Brooklyn Decker.

23. Manuel Orantes (ESP)

- *Career Duration: 1967-1984*
- *Career Titles: 33*
- *Career Grand Slams: 1*

Orantes had a unique knack of playing extraordinarily well in minor tournaments, but falling apart in Grand Slams.

However, his only Grand Slam victory was a very impressive one to say the least; he defeated American Jimmy Connors at the US Open in 1975. He also did it in straight sets, 6-4, 6-3, 6-3.

Orantes also gave Bjorn Borg an excellent match at Roland Garros in 1974, where he won the first two sets before collapsing. He also partnered with Jose Higueras in 1978 to reach the French Open final in doubles.

22. Yevgeny Kafelnikov (RUS)

- *Career Duration: 1992-2004*
- *Career Titles: 26*
- *Career Grand Slams: 2*

Kafelnikov has a very special mark on his record. He is the last man to capture the singles and doubles trophies at a Grand Slam event (1996 French Open). He partnered with Daniel Vacek and defeated the team of Guy Forget/Jakob Hlasek to win the doubles title, then went on to pummel Michael Stich for the singles title.

He would also win the Australian Open in 1999.

The heavy-swinging righty from Sochi also had four career Grand Slam doubles titles and an Olympic gold medal in singles at the Sydney games in 2000.

21. Michael Chang (USA)

- *Career Duration: 1988-2003*
- *Career Titles: 34*
- *Career Grand Slams: 1*

The diminutive Chang (5'9" 160 lbs.) had a reputation of winning young. He won countless titles as a teenager, but none more famous than his Grand Slam victory at the French Open in 1989.

The 17-year-old Chang faced World No. 1 and three-time champion Ivan Lendl, and won in a five-set epic that lasted well over four hours.

Chang never reached No. 1 in the world and he never won another Grand Slam after his win in 1989. He was a runner-up three times. Chang still is considered one of the best defenders in history, thanks to his blinding speed and recovery.

20. Thomas Muster (AUT)

- *Career Duration: 1985-1999*

- *Career Titles: 44*
- *Career Grand Slams: 1*

Dubbed the "King of Clay" in the 1990s, his lone Grand Slam came at the French Open in 1995, where he defeated Michael Chang.

Although he never won the event again, he won nearly all of his career ATP titles on clay courts. The southpaw won 40 out of his 44 tournament wins on the sands.

The skinny Austrian reached the world No. 1 ranking in the early stages of 1996, but he did not hold it for long. He won a title he probably never wanted in 1990, when he was awarded the ATP's "Comeback Player of the Year."

19. Gustavo Kuerten (BRA)

- *Career Duration: 1995-2008*
- *Career Titles: 20*
- *Career Grand Slams: 3*

Guga Kuerten was easily the best Brazilian to ever play the game. He was a clay court specialist who won all three of his Grand Slam titles at the French Open, in 1997, 2000 and 2001.

Despite never making it past the quarterfinals in any other Grand Slam event, Guga was practically automatic at Roland Garros.

The vast majority of Kuerten's ATP titles came on clay, although he did have several hard court championships mixed in. He also dabbled in doubles towards the end of his career, teaming up with fellow Brazilian Fernando Meligeni to win five ATP titles.

18. Ilie Nastase (ROM)

- *Career Duration: 1969-1985*
- *Career Titles: 57*
- *Career Grand Slams: 2*

Nastase won Grand Slam titles in every way possible. He won two in singles, three in doubles, and two more in mixed doubles. His most impressive win was over Arthur Ashe in the 1972 US Open, where it took the Romanian five sets and close to five hours to seal the deal.

The versatile Nastase won ATP events on all surfaces, too. He may have possibly been one of the best carpet court players in history, as he won practically every carpet tournament he entered during the 1970s.

17. Jim Courier (USA)

- *Career Duration: 1988-2000*
- *Career Titles: 23*
- *Career Grand Slams: 4*

Courier started out his career with a bang, defeating fellow young star Andre Agassi in five sets at the French Open.

He would go on to win four Grand Slam titles, two at Roland Garros and two more in Melbourne. Courier faced his arch-nemesis, Stefan Edberg, three times in Grand Slam finals, winning two of them.

He spent 58 weeks ranked at No. 1 and despite having a decent game on all surfaces, the majority of his tournament wins came on hard courts. Courier founded the non-profit organization "Courier's Kids" to help children play tennis after his retirement.

16. John Newcombe (AUS)

- *Career Duration: 1968-1981*
- *Career Titles: 32 (68 in total)*
- *Career Grand Slams: 5*

Newcombe had a very productive career as a singles player, winning multiple titles at the US Open, Australian Open and Wimbledon. His signature match was a victory over Ken Rosewall at Wimbledon in 1970.

However, Newcombe may be most famous for his ATP-record 12 Grand Slam titles in doubles, many with fellow Aussie Tony Roche as a partner.

15. Arthur Ashe (USA)

- *Career Duration: 1966-1980*
- *Career Titles: 33*

- *Career Grand Slams: 3*

Ashe was not only a leader on the court for advancement of American tennis, but also an activist in social issues as well.

Ashe won every Grand Slam event except the French Open. He defeated fellow American Jimmy Connors in 1975 at Wimbledon to claim his final championship.

He had a rivalry with Roy Emerson before the Open Era in the early 1960s. He was the first African-American to win a Grand Slam, and he was also a major activist in the worldwide fight against AIDS.

14. Guillermo Vilas (ARG)

- *Career Duration: 1969-1992*
- *Career Titles: 62*
- *Career Grand Slams: 4*

Vilas was a southpaw baseliner in an era where players commonly would serve and volley. He was the first South American male to ever win a Grand Slam event when he defeated Brian Gottfried at Roland Garros. He would win four Grand Slams in total.

Vilas holds two impressive ATP records. First, he had a 46-match winning streak on all surfaces in 1977 which still hasn't come close to falling. Second, he won the most titles in a season, also in 1977, with 16 ATP Tour championships.

13. Stefan Edberg (SWE)

- *Career Duration: 1983-1996*
- *Career Titles: 42*
- *Career Grand Slams: 6*

The big Swede was also big on serve-and-volley. He is one of the few players to ever be ranked No. 1 in the world in singles and doubles at the same time.

Edberg won every Grand Slam event twice except the French Open, in which he made it to the final and lost to Michael Chang.

He was fierce rivals with Boris Becker; they met at Wimbledon three consecutive years (1988-90). Edberg took two of those crowns. He

also won two doubles crowns with fellow Swede and doubles titan Anders Jarryd.

12. Boris Becker (GER)

- *Career Duration: 1984-1999*
- *Career Titles: 49*
- *Career Grand Slams: 6*

Boris Becker accomplished just about everything a tennis player could possibly imagine. He won six career Grand Slam titles (three at Wimbledon), won an Olympic Gold in Barcelona, and led the West Germany Davis Cup team to a dramatic victory over the United States in 1989 where he beat Andre Agassi in five brutal sets.

Becker won an unheard of 26 titles on indoor carpet courts over the course of his career, still a record today.

Bizarrely enough with how tremendous of a singles player he was, he reached a higher mark in doubles first, despite never winning a Grand Slam doubles event.

11. Mats Wilander (SWE)

- *Career Duration: 1981-1996*
- *Career Titles: 33*
- *Career Grand Slams: 7*

Mats Wilander is in exclusive company because he can say that he has won a Grand Slam on all three surfaces (the other two are Rafael Nadal and Jimmy Connors).

Although he never won Wimbledon, his grass title came at the Australian Open when it was still played on lawn.

The all-purpose Wilander also won a Grand Slam in doubles, and reached finals two more times. He was at his best when playing on clay, where he won the French Open three times, defeating Guillermo Vilas in the first and Ivan Lendl in the second.

10. Rafael Nadal (ESP)

- *Career Duration: 2004-Present*
- *Career Titles: 32*

- *Career Grand Slams: 6*

Don't expect the Raging Bull to sit here for the rest of his career. Nadal has already put together a phenomenal body of work, and he's only 22. He has won Grand Slams on all surfaces and has put himself in prime position to become only the second man in Open Era history to win all four Grand Slams in a year.

Although Nadal calls the red clay of Roland Garros home, he has certainly expanded his horizons. His rivalry with Roger Federer may end up being the best of all-time.

9. Ken Rosewall (AUS)

- *Career Duration: 1950-1980*
- *Career Titles: 25 (132 in total)*
- *Career Grand Slams: 6 (12 in total)*

Ken Rosewall's picture should show up in the dictionary under the word "consistency." He was a Top 20 player in the world for 25 straight years, and even won the Australian Open at 38 years old.

The minuscule Rosewall (5'7" and 145 pounds), played with constant agility and had a never-ending motor.

Although Rosewall won the majority of his tournaments before the Open Era, he was still winning Grand Slam events deep into his 30s, where he won three of them after his 35th birthday. Talk about impressive.

8. Ivan Lendl (CZE)

- *Career Duration: 1978-1994*
- *Career Titles: 94*
- *Career Grand Slams: 8*

Lendl, despite winning eight career Grand Slams, may be better known for another statistic. He has competed in an ATP-record 19 Grand Slam finals and made it to at least one in each of 11 consecutive years.

He helped to usher in a Power Era of tennis, utilizing a heavy topspin forehand from the baseline. He won every Grand Slam event except

Wimbledon, despite making it to the finals in two consecutive years. The lovable loser from the Czech Republic is second all-time in the Open Era for career titles.

7. Jimmy Connors (USA)

- *Career Duration: 1972-1996*
- *Career Titles: 109*
- *Career Grand Slams: 8*

Jimbo Connors was one of the best to ever play the game, and yet he doesn't even get serious contention for the best American player in the Open Era! Connors won an ATP-record 109 career titles and added a friendly eight Grand Slams to go with it.

He could dominate all surfaces at any time and spent a mundane 268 total weeks at No. 1 in the world.

Connors also double dipped for a while with Ilie Nastase, where the duo won two Grand Slams (Wimbledon & the US Open). Jimbo also holds the strange record of being the only man to win the US Open on three different surfaces.

6. John McEnroe (USA)

- *Career Duration: 1978-2006*
- *Career Titles: 77*
- *Career Grand Slams: 7*

Yes, Johnny Mac, we are serious. You are sixth best in the Open Era. Although John McEnroe was one of the best to ever play, he will be most remembered for his Hall of Fame conniptions on the court. He had intense rivalries with any player who would give him a decent match (mainly Borg, Connors, and Lendl).

Despite McEnroe never winning the French or Australian Open, he more than made up for it in Wimbledon and US Open titles. His most famous match without doubt would be the 1980 Wimbledon final against Bjorn Borg, which Borg ended up winning 8-6 in the fifth set.

5. Andre Agassi (USA)

- *Career Duration: 1986-2006*
- *Career Titles: 60*
- *Career Grand Slams: 8*

The Wonder Boy, Andre Agassi didn't turn out so bad after all. He is the only male player to complete a career Golden Slam (all four Grand Slam events plus an Olympic gold).

Dubbed the best serve-returner in history by many of the top players who have faced Agassi, he had insane hand-eye coordination.

He was a truly dominant force on the hard courts, winning 46 of his 60 career titles on the concrete, but he was no slouch on other surfaces. The only grass court tournament he won happened to be called Wimbledon. He is married to former WTA star Steffi Graf.

4. Pete Sampras (USA)

- *Career Duration: 1988-2002*
- *Career Titles: 64*
- *Career Grand Slams: 14*

Pistol Pete Sampras will always be remembered for his mind-blowing seven Wimbledon singles championships. Sampras had literally no weaknesses in his game, and could use any weapon at any time.

His serve could win points. His forehand was deadly. And his net game was unparalleled. His 14 career Grand Slams remain an Open Era record.

His only weakness may have been his complete inability to win on clay. He made it to the Roland Garros semifinals just once in his career, and never went any further. He was a prime-time performer who had an 84 percent winning percentage in Grand Slams.

3. Roger Federer (SUI)

- *Career Duration: 1998-Present*
- *Career Titles: 57*
- *Career Grand Slams: 13*

You can't say enough about Roger Federer. The Swiss master-tactician has already nearly matched Pete Sampras' record 14 Grand Slams, and Federer has done it in half the time.

He combines a mixture of power and shot-making that has dazzled crowds around the world for many years.

He remains fierce rivals with Rafael Nadal. Nadal has mauled Federer on clay, while Federer still has the upper hand on grass and hard courts in terms of victories.

If Federer can stay healthy, he could possibly reach Connors' mark for career titles too.

2. Bjorn Borg (SWE)

- *Career Duration: 1973-1993*
- *Career Titles: 63*
- *Career Grand Slams: 11*

Borg was a multi-faceted machine who could transition his game to any surface. He won back-to-back French Open and Wimbledon titles three straight times. Rafael Nadal has done that feat only once. He currently holds the record for most French Open titles won, with six, but that record could fall in the near future.

Borg made the game look like a stroll in the park. In a game that was evolving away from finesse, he used his racquet like a magic wand to return everything in sight. Although for a guy that couldn't stand being second best, that's where he stands here.

1. Rod Laver (AUS)

- *Career Duration: 1962-1979*
- *Career Titles: 40 (198 in total)*
- *Career Grand Slams: 5 (11 in total)*

Finally, the best player of all time. Laver is the only man in Open Era history to complete a calendar year Grand Slam, where he won all four titles in 1969.

The miniature left-hander from Rockhampton, Australia, did things never before seen with a racquet. He revolutionized the way the game was played...spinning the ball and expert volleys.

He is credited with 198 singles titles (most before the Open Era), but his sheer dominance over the entire field was brilliance on a level never seen again.

Laver also showcased his mastery of the doubles game while partnered with Roy Emerson, where the two won in Melbourne and Wimbledon.

He also has a stadium named after him.

TOP Female
TENNIS PLAYERS

It was no easier choosing our top 10 female tennis players of all time! We have TWO categories of TEN [a] Top Hottest Players and [b] Top Female Players

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[a] Top Hottest Players

Women's Tennis is one of the most popular sports which is followed by millions of people around the world. The glamour of the game comes out when the women players show their speed, strength, and flexibility which makes them look more attractive. The women do not impress everyone by their look but also by their talent, the players have been targeting by the photographers to capture their beauty and hotness. So, check Top 10 Hottest Female Tennis Players.

Tennis is running for a long period of time and there are many women players who look beautiful and it's hard to just write the top 10. But all these top 10 hottest divas are followed by millions or billion people all over around the world and they have a huge fan following on their social media accounts. So, let's have a look at the top 10 Hottest Female Tennis Players in The World all time.

1. Maria Sharapova

1. **Birth Name**: Maria Sharapova
2. **Born**: 19 April 1987
3. **Born Place**: Nyagan, Russia, SFSR
4. **Residence**: Bradenton, Florida, U.S
5. **Height**: 1.88 m (6 ft 2 in)

Maria is a Russian professional tennis player, she competed for the WTA tour from 2001 to 2020 and she has ranked No.1 in singles by the WTA on five separate occasions for a total of 21 weeks. She is the only Russian to hold the career Grand Slam, Maria has also received Olympic Medal she won Silver Medal in women's single in 2012. Not only this much she has been assigned many modeling assignments and some advertisements like Nike, Prince, Canon, and many more.

2. Anna Kournikova

1. **Birth Name**: Anna Kournikova
2. **Born**: 7 June 1981
3. **Born Place**: Moscow (Russian)
4. **Residence**: Miami Beach, Florida, U.S
5. **Height**: 1.73m (5ft 8in.)

Anna is Russian- American professional tennis player, model, and television personality, she has achieved great success by playing doubles where she was at the time the World No.1 player. She is one of the most photogenic tennis players one could see. Anna has also appeared in many magazines cover and various advertisements also she became the face of the advertisement.

3.Ana Ivanovic

1. **Birth Name**: Ana Ivanović
2. **Born**: 6 November 1987
3. **Born Place**: Belgrade, SR Serbia, SFR Yugoslavia
4. **Residence**: Chicago, Illinois
5. **Height**: 1.84 m (6 ft 0 in)

She is a Serbian professional player; she is ranked No.1 in the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) and she has won 15 tour titles and One Grand Slam singles title. Anna is popularly known for her

aggressive style of play. Due to her glamorous face and have countless endorsements deals by which her net worth is very good and more and in the year 2016 she announces her retirement.

4. Eugenie Bouchard

1. **Birth Name**: Eugenie Bouchard
2. **Born**: 25 February 1994
3. **Born Place**: Montreal, Québec, Canada
4. **Residence**: Las Vegas, Nevada, United States
5. **Height**: 1.78 m (5 ft 10 in)

Eugenie is a Canadian tennis player, In the year 2014 she became the first Canadian-born player to represent Canada and to reach the final of Grand Slam Tournaments. She is one of the youngest players and not only this she has won several awards like.

- The 2012 Wimbledon girls' title
- WTA Newcomer of the Year 2013
- Tennis Canada female player of the year 2013 to 2017
- WTA Most Improved Player 2014
- Bobbie Rosenfeld Award 2013-14

5. Sania Mirza

1. **Birth Name**: Sania Mirza
2. **Born**: 15 November 1986
3. **Born Place**: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
4. **Residence**: Hyderabad, India
5. **Height**: 1.73 m (5 ft 8 in)

Sania is an Indian professional tennis player, a former doubles World No.1 she has won six Grand Slam titles in her career. Until her retirement from singles in 2013 she was ranked by the Women's Tennis Association as India's No.1 player. Sania is one of the most super-hot and sensational with intelligent tennis players she is

famously known for her shots. She is no.1 in singles and double categories.

6. Ashley Harkleroad

1. **Birth Name**: Ashley Harkleroad Adams
2. **Born**: May 2, 1985
3. **Born Place**: Rossville, Georgia
4. **Residence**: Los Angeles, California
5. **Height**: 5 ft 5 in (1.65 m)

Ashley Harkleroad is an American tennis player; she is one of the most famous personality players after looking so stunning and beautiful she didn't stop playing tennis she achieves her career very successfully also she has many endorsements deals with her. She is married to coach Chuck Adams.

7. Dominika Cibulkova

1. **Name**: Dominika Navara Cibulková
2. **Born**: 6 May 1989
3. **Born Place**: Bratislava, Slovakia
4. **Residence**: Dubai, United Arab Emirates
5. **Height**: 1.60 m (5 ft 3 in)

Dominika is a Slovak former professional tennis player. She is known for her quick and aggressive style of way, Shihad won 8 WTA tour singles titles and two on the ITF circuit. One of the most successful achievements of her in the life is she reached the quarterfinals or better of all four Ground Slam tournaments.

8. Maria Kirilenko

1. **Name**: Maria Kirilenko-Stepanova
2. **Born**: 25 January 1987
3. **Born Place**: Moscow, Russian
4. **Residence**: Moscow, Russia
5. **Height**: 1.74 m (5 ft 8+1⁄2 in)

Maria is a Russian former professional tennis player at the age of 15 she went to become a top 10 players in both singles and doubles. She is one of the most fashionable beauties of Russian one could ever see also she has appeared in many magazines and vogue for sports Illustrated.

9. Daniela Hantuchova

1. **Real Name:** Daniela Hantuchová
2. **Born**; 23 April 1983
3. **Born Place**; Poprad, Czechoslovakia
4. **Residence**; Monte Carlo, Monaco
5. **Height**; 1.81 m (5 ft 11 in)

Daniela is a Slovak tennis player, she won her very first WTA tournament at Indian Wells which was a huge success for her but in total, she had won 6 titles of WTA. She is one of the most successful and hottest tennis players.

10. Caroline Wozniacki

1. **Real Name:** Caroline Wozniacki
2. **Born**: 11 July 1990
3. **Born Place**: Odense, Denmark
4. **Residence**: New York, United States
5. **Height**: 1.77 m (5 ft 10 in)

Caroline is a Danish professional player; she was ranked world No.1 in a single for a total of 71 weeks. She is the first woman from Scandinavian to hold the top position and win a hefty amount of prize

money. She is popularly known for her footwork and defensive abilities.

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b] Top Female Players

Selecting the top 10 of anything can be a difficult and subjective task. There have been so many great women players over the last 50 years of the Open Era, and this doesn't even take into consideration the great players from the early 20th century. Changes in fitness regimes, nutrition, and racket technology over the years have only served to complicate an already difficult task. As difficult as it was to choose the top 10 all-time greatest male tennis players, the women's top 10 proved no easier.

After pouring through countless statistical records, this is the list of the best female tennis players during the Open Era of tennis—from 1968 to the present. However, here included are 11 players here, with two greats tied for the 10th position.

10(a). Martina Hingis

~~~~~

- Born September 30, 1980
- Born in Kosice, Czechoslovakia
- Resides in Fuesisberg, Switzerland
- Turned Pro: 1994
- Retired: 2017
- Career prize money: $24,749,074
- 45 career titles
- 5 Grand Slam Singles Titles: 3 Australian Open, 1 Wimbledon, 1 US Open

With 5 Grand Slam singles titles and 209 weeks ranked number one in the world, Martina Hingis makes a strong argument to be ranked in the top 10 all-time. Factor in her 13 Grand Slam Doubles titles, 7 Mixed Doubles titles, and her 2 Tour Finals titles, and it's hard to exclude the Swiss star. Her singles career was relatively short due to injuries and her first retirement came in 2003 at just 22 years of age. Had she remained healthy, she certainly would have contended for many more Grand Slam singles titles. Martina was able to extend her tennis career by playing mostly doubles and had great success with 3 Grand Slam Doubles titles in 2017, her final year in competitive tennis.

10(b). Evonne Goolagong

- Born: July 31, 1951
- Born in Griffith, New South Wales, Australia
- Resides: Noosa Heads, Queensland, Australia
- Turned pro: 1968
- Retired: 1983
- Career prize money: $1,399,431
- 68 career titles
- 7 Grand Slam Singles Titles: 4 Australian, 1 French, 2 Wimbledon
- Inducted into Tennis Hall of Fame: 1988

Often overlooked because she played during the Chris Everett and Martina Navratilova era, Goolagong was the epitome of grace and beauty on the court. Despite playing during one of the most competitive periods in women's tennis, Goolagong was still able to win seven Grand Slam titles. In 1976, she was ranked number one in the world. She has the distinction of being the only mother since before World War I to have won Wimbledon, having won the title in 1980 after giving birth to her daughter in 1977.

The only Grand Slam title to elude her was the US Open, where she reached the finals in four consecutive years, 1973-1976.

9. Justine Henin

- Born: June 1, 1982
- Born in Liege, Belgium
- Resides: Brussels, Belgium
- Turned pro: 1999
- Retired: 2008, 2011
- Career prize money: $20,863,335
- 50 career titles
- 7 Grand Slam Singles Titles: 1 Australian, 4 French, 2 US Open

Known for her mental and physical toughness, Justine Henin was one of the most athletic women to ever play the game. Despite her small stature, she packed a powerful punch and played a complete game that included a powerful serve and a forehand shot that she hit with both power and accuracy. Known as one of the best volleyers in the game, Henin was as comfortable at the net as from the baseline.

In 2003, she achieved the number one ranking in the world, having won both the French Open and the US Open. In 2004, Henin won the Gold Medal at the Athens Olympics to go along with her first Australian Open title. She won seven Grand Slam titles in her career, but she retired abruptly in 2008 citing burnout from over 20 years of competitive tennis. A brief comeback in 2010 was short lived, and she retired for good in early 2011.

8. Venus Williams

- Born: June 17, 1980
- Born in Lynwood, California
- Resides: Palm Beach Gardens, Florida
- Turned pro: 1994
- Career prize money: $42,288,213
- 49 career titles
- 7 Grand Slam Singles Titles: 5 Wimbledon, 2 US Open
- Current active player

If not for having to compete against her sister Serena, Venus Williams may very well have had many more Grand Slam titles to her name. The sisters have gone head-to-head in a Grand Slam final nine times with Serena winning seven of those matches.

While Venus's career has been fraught with injuries, there is no doubt that in the early 2000s she was the woman to beat on tour. Between 2000 and 2001, Venus captured four of her seven Grand Slam victories. In 2002, she finally attained the number one ranking in the world, a spot she would capture on three separate occasions. Wimbledon has been Venus' favourite court as she has won five titles there, the last coming in 2008.

7. Billie Jean King

- Born: November 22, 1943
- Born in Long Beach, California
- Resides: Chicago and New York
- Turned pro: 1968
- Retired: 1983
- Career prize money: $1,966,487
- 129 career titles
- 12 Grand Slam Singles Titles: 1 Australian, 1 French, 6 Wimbledon, 4 US Open
- Inducted into Tennis Hall of Fame: 1987

Who can forget the weird and wacky battle of the sexes between Billie Jean King and Bobby Riggs in 1973? Not only did King dispose of Mr. Riggs in short order but she also dominated women's tennis from the mid-1960s to the mid-1970s.

Her hard-charging aggressive style of play was in sharp contrast to the stately ground game of Chris Evert who came along in 1972 to challenge King as the queen of women's tennis. Nevertheless, King owned Wimbledon from 1966 to 1975, when she won the title six times.

6. Monica Seles

- Born: December 2, 1973
- Born in Novi Sad, SR Serbia, SFR Yugoslavia
- Resides: Sarasota, Florida
- Turned pro: 1989
- Retired: 2008
- Career prize money: $14,891,762
- 53 career titles
- 9 Grand Slam Singles Titles: 4 Australian, 3 French, 2 US Open
- Inducted into Tennis Hall of Fame: 2009

Were it not for the unfortunate on-court attack and stabbing by a deranged fan in 1993, Monica Seles would certainly have gone on to win more Grand Slam titles. Her epic battles with Steffi Graf were classics, and we the fans were deprived of some great matches because of one fan's sick obsession. While Monica did return to tennis two years after the incident, she was never quite the same. To her credit, she did go on to win the 1996 Australian Open, her only post-attack Grand Slam victory. Monica continued to play until 2003 and officially retired in 2008. There is no doubt that Monica Seles was the most dominant player from 1990 to 1992. During this time, she won seven of her nine Grand Slam Titles. In 1991, she was the top-ranked woman in the world.

5. Chris Evert

- Born: December 21, 1954
- Born in Fort Lauderdale, Florida
- Resides: Boca Raton, Florida
- Turned pro: 1972
- Retired: 1989
- Career prize money: $8,895,195
- 157 career titles
- 18 Grand Slam Singles Titles: 2 Australian, 7 French, 3 Wimbledon, 6 US Open
- Inducted into Tennis Hall of Fame: 1995

Was there ever a player more graceful on the court than Chris Evert? She was a machine from the baseline, and with that two-handed backhand shot, she dominated women's tennis from the mid-1970s into the early 1980s. Evert still holds the record for reaching the most Grand Slam singles finals with 34, and she managed to win 18 of them, including every major at least twice. When Martina Navratilova came along in the late 1970s, it provided fans with a great on-court rivalry. Evert was the year-ending number one player in the world for seven years and had a career winning percentage in singles matches of over 90 percent.

4. Margaret Court

- Born: July 16, 1942
- Born in Albury, New South Wales, Australia
- Resides: Perth, Western Australia
- Turned pro: 1960
- Retired: 1977
- Career prize money approximately: $500,000
- 192 career titles
- 24 Grand Slam Singles Titles: 11 Australian, 5 French, 3 Wimbledon, 5 US Open
- Inducted into Tennis Hall of Fame: 1979

There are many experts out there who feel that Margaret Court is the best player of all time. With a record 24 Grand Slam singles titles, it's hard to argue. Add in her 19 doubles and 19 mixed doubles titles and Court has a record 62 Major titles to her credit.

She was the first woman in the Open Era to win the singles Grand Slam in 1970, and she is one of only two women (Daniela Hantuchova being the other) to have won a Grand Slam in mixed doubles, which she did twice. Undoubtedly the best player in the 1960s to early 1970s, Court was the first woman to incorporate weights and fitness training into her routine. The result was a long and injury-free career.

3. Martina Navratilova

- Born: October 18, 1956
- Born in Prague, Czechoslovakia
- Resides: Sarasota, Florida
- Turned pro: 1975
- Retired: 1994
- Career prize money: $21,626,089
- 167 career titles
- 18 Grand Slam Singles Titles: 3 Australian, 2 French, 9 Wimbledon, 4 US Open
- Inducted into Tennis Hall of Fame: 2000

One of the toughest competitors to ever grace the court, Martina Navratilova dominated women's tennis from the late 1970s through a good portion of the 1980s. Known for her extreme physical conditioning, Martina brought the big serve and volley back to the women's game.

She holds the Open Era record for career titles with 167 and has 59 total Grand Slam titles, which includes singles, doubles, and mixed doubles. Martina also holds the record for career Wimbledon titles with an amazing nine championships. She will be remembered as one of the greatest doubles players ever, having won 31 Grand Slam Doubles titles and 10 Grand Slam Mixed Doubles titles.

2. Steffi Graf

- Born: June 14, 1969
- Born in Mannheim, Baden-Wurttemberg, West Germany
- Resides: Las Vegas, Nevada
- Turned pro: 1982
- Retired: 1999
- Career prize money: $21,891,306
- 107 career titles
- 22 Grand Slam Singles Titles: 4 Australian, 6 French, 7 Wimbledon, 5 US Open
- Inducted into Tennis Hall of Fame: 2004

Able to win on all surfaces, Graff was a model of consistency throughout her 17-year career. Her record 377 weeks ranked as number one in the world is a record for any player, male or female. In 1988, Graff became the first player to achieve what is regarded as the calendar year Golden Slam by winning all four majors plus the Olympic Gold Medal in the same year, a remarkable feat.

From the late 1980s to the mid-1990s, there was no one better than Graf, and when she retired in 1999, she was still ranked number three in the world. Were it not for the long and storied career of Serena Williams, the case would be made for Graf as the greatest of all time. While many will continue to debate Steffi versus Serena as the greatest female player of all time, they were both incredible players who dominated their era and advanced women's tennis.

1. Serena Williams

- Born: September 26, 1981
- Born in Saginaw, Michigan
- Resides: Palm Beach Gardens, Florida
- Turned pro: 1995
- Career prize money: $94,588,910
- 73 career titles
- 23 Grand Slam Singles Titles: 7 Australian, 3 French, 7 Wimbledon, 6 US Open
- Retired September, 2022

As one of the strongest and most powerful women to ever play the game, Serena Williams has certainly left her mark on tennis. Serena and her sister, Venus, have been a dominant force in women's tennis since the late 1990s. Together, they have won 14 Grand Slam Doubles titles. With 23 Grand Slam Singles titles, including the 2017 Australian Open, Serena now owns the Open Era record for Grand Slam singles titles by a tennis player, male or female.

Serena's game has certainly withstood the test of time and competition. Her Grand Slam titles have come over an 18-year period starting in 1999, with her latest victory coming at the 2017 Australian Open. Out of competitive tennis for most of 2017 while pregnant, Serena reached 4 Grand Slam finals without securing that coveted 24th title to tie Margaret Court, before retiring after the 2022 US Open.

I believe the case can now be made to elevate Serena to the greatest female tennis player of all time. Her high level of play over a very long career combined with her 23-10 record in Grand Slam finals certainly makes the case convincing. No disrespect to Steffi, Martina, and Margaret, but Serena now deserves the distinction as the greatest of all time.

Ranking based on Grand Slam Singles

Here is the list of the more Grand Slam singles titles won by Females Tennis Players

1. Margaret Court 24
2. Serena Williams 23
3. Steffi Graf 22
4. Helen Wills 19
5. Martina Navratilova 18
5. Chris Evert 18
7. Billie Jean King 12
8. Maureen Connolly 9
8. Monica Seles 9
10. Molla Mallory 8
10. Suzanne Lenglen 8

(☺) ** (☺) ** (☺)

Evolution of Tennis Rackets

The very first tennis racket was made in 1874 in London by Major Walter C. Wingfield. The racket was the first one made of solid wood.

https://youtu.be/6hj6bxtuqMo

Major Walter C. Wingfield and his wooden racket

Introduction

Tennis rackets were invented in the middle of the 18th century. Monks in France created a very similar game to tennis, but they didn't use rackets. The monks started out using their bare hands to hit the ball back and forth over something similar to a net, but then it shifted into the monks wearing leather gloves.

After the monks started getting injured from playing with their hands, they decided to shift to paddles. Players first used solid wooden paddles, and then that transferred to what we would now call a racket in the 14th century. This early medieval racket had strings made of gut and was bound in a large wooden frame. They were shaped in more of a teardrop shape, with a long wooden handle. They were used to hit a dead ball over a net-type structure instead of against a wall as played initially with a squash ball.

The modern wooden tennis racket was invented several centuries later, and the game started to shift more into what we know tennis to look like today.

Wooden Rackets

The very first tennis racket was made in 1874 in London by Major Walter C. Wingfield. This racket was large, heavy, and made of solid wood, meaning it could deal some severe damage!

Wooden rackets started to be used in the middle of the nineteenth century when lawn tennis was invented and gained popularity.

The wooden rackets used in this period were created with a wide head so that it was easier to use the ball, but the rackets were also relatively heavy. However, they were flexible, and this allowed for a fair playing field for everyone who ended up playing the game.

The wooden racket stayed mostly the same for about 100 years! Excluding laminated wooden rackets, which started to gain popularity in 1947. This was a game-changer for many players.

Dunlop, Slazenger, Wilson, and Spalding all dominated the wooden tennis racket industry. Most other competitors died out during this era due to their lack of innovation and established big companies.

The two biggest tennis rackets of this time were the Dunlop Maxply Fort and the Wilson Jack Kramer.

Metal

Throughout the century that wooden rackets were used, metal rackets repeatedly tried to gain popularity without being successful. Metal rackets had been around since 1889 but never saw widespread use.

However, in the 1970s, Jimmy Connors used a now-famous steel racket that showed off just how powerful metal rackets could be against wooden ones.

Connors' devastating victory against Ken Rosewell was proof that the metal tennis racket industry had taken off. The heads were twice the size of the wooden tennis racket heads traditionally used in the century prior.

The metal rackets started in 1957 when René Lacoste invented and patented the first metal tennis racket for use.

Wilson (the famous tennis racket company) eventually bought the rights to it, and so the metal racket made its first appearance in a Wilson catalogue in 1969.

The first Wilson metal racket, the T2000, was unlike any wood racket at the time. It had a 67 square inch head, which allowed for maximum power.

By 1917, Wilson (who had been making wooden rackets since 1917) was fully composite and metal materials in their catalogues.

Graphite

Aluminum rackets had taken off after gaining in popularity during Connors' time, but players soon grew weary of the flexibility that these rackets posed on the court.

Hard-hitting shots would momentarily create flexibility in the aluminum frame, changing the direction in which the string plane was facing. The string bed would then send the ball rocketing off in a somewhat unintended direction.

As a result of the aluminum rackets' unpredictability, the major companies started to put out graphite rackets. These rackets were less flexible than the metal rackets originally produced. They also had less weight to them, which meant that they were lighter to weld and had more room to add power to each swing.

Arthur Ashe was the first person to use a 100% graphite tennis racket, although not the most popular of the tennis players who used this racket style. Probably the first famous graphite rackets were used by John McEnroe and Steffi Graf in 1980.

At this point in the 20th century, graphite rackets weighed about 12.5 ounces. Now that today's rackets are changing in material (although sticking to having graphite mixtures), they can weigh as little as 7 ounces.

Today's Rackets

Since the evolution to graphite, rackets haven't changed much in material. All rackets have some graphite in them for flexibility and stability while still maintaining great power to them.

Some companies have experimented with adding other materials such as titanium and Kevlar to see if the racket will improve. So far, nothing radical has changed in how they make rackets.

Kevlar is similar to graphite, with the only difference being that it is lighter, stiffer, and transmits vibrations more readily. Beginners find that both Kevlar and titanium tennis rackets have become hard to control and hard on the arms after an extended amount of time.

There are a few tennis rackets that are designed today for specific situations with different specifications.

Power Rackets

Power rackets are available in a wide variety. They can range in materials (Titanium, Hypercarbon, Triple threat, Air Carbon titanium Mesh, etc.) as well as size, head shape, weights, and different levels of vibration dampening.

These rackets have large sweet spots and are generally very versatile. If a player is looking for a great power racket, the Wilson Hyper Hammer 5.3 is a great option. It gives a ton of power on the shots.

Ultimate Control Rackets

These rackets are for more experienced players and are generally harder to use. This is insanely beneficial once you get the hang of them.

These have thin beams and are smaller in terms of tennis racket heads. This offers the highest level of control available compared to other tennis rackets on the market in today's world. For the ultimate control in your game, we recommend the Wilson Pro Staff RF97 v13. There is a reason it is Roger Federer's racket of choice.

Mid Power or Mid Control Rackets

In between the two extremes mentioned above, there are mid-power and mid-control tennis rackets. These are great for beginners because they provide a happy medium between power and control.

All companies who produce tennis rackets have a racket that fits in this category today, and they all range in price and sizing. For a great all-around racket, look no further than the Babolat 2021 Pure Drive. The Babolat Pure Drive series continues to be the best-selling racket in the world.

Sizing Throughout History

The sizing of tennis rackets throughout history is an exciting thing to observe, as it changes in such fluctuations and is still changing today. Most players tend to stick to a wider head but light and sloping frame, while others might favor heavier and more powerful tennis rackets.

The average wooden racket was 67 square inches. This was the norm for a long time, until Howard Head popularized the first large racket in the 1970s, at a whopping 100 square inches. This was a giant racket for the time, and it still is today.

This wasn't the first one to take a large route. The American tennis brand called Weed originally made the first large aluminium tennis racket in 1975. This racket didn't end up making history and was widely unsuccessful.

The market started increasing in regards to size once Howard Head created the 100 square inch racket. In fact, at one time, a 135 square inch head was trendy in Head's time. This has since gone down because of the rules around head size regulations, capping the maximum square inches at 125.

So, What's Next?

Honestly, who's to say? Tennis racket companies are currently suffering due to their quality of rackets being so high. Someone who owns a graphite racket from 20 years ago might still be able to use it today without a need or want for another racket.

This results in widespread innovation for tennis racket companies. Many companies are struggling to come up with new and exciting versions of their rackets to stay in business.

For example, Dunlop was the first company to release a tennis racket that offers extra length. All other companies also started to provide this shortly after.

Head has recently come out with a piezoelectric material tennis racket, which allows the user to have a better hit. When the ball comes into contact with the strings (made of piezoelectric material), the energy that it creates is converted into electrical energy to dampen the vibration.

This electric energy is then back to the piezoelectric ceramic composites in the frame, which then stiffens from the energy entering it. So, is electricity in tennis rackets the next big thing? We'll have to wait and see. Either way, at least we aren't playing with animal guts!

To know about the Best Tennis Rackets in 2022,
please visit these web page:

https://tennisreviewer.com/best-tennis-rackets/

https://www.thetennistribe.com/best-tennis-racquets/

https://www.perfect-tennis.com/best-tennis-racquets/

GLOSSARY :-: Tennis

https://www.itftennis.com/en/about-us/organisation/tennis-glossary/

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General

Originally known as lawn tennis, tennis is a game in which two players (in singles) or two pairs (in doubles) use rackets to strike a felt-covered rubber ball over a net so that it bounces in the opponent's half of the court. The object of the game is to prevent your opponent from legally hitting the ball back into your half of the court, earning the successful player one point.

Tennis is a sport played worldwide by players of all ages and abilities, both recreationally and professionally. Top professional male players compete on the ATP Tour, while top female professionals play on the WTA Tour. The top players of both sexes contest the four Grand Slam events - the Australian Open, Roland Garros, Wimbledon and the US Open - alongside the world's top wheelchair and junior players. Tennis is also an Olympic and Paralympic sport.

A basic understanding of how tennis works involves getting to grips with the court - which can be grass, clay, or a hard court; the rules of the game and scoring; and the types of shot. The ITF governs the formal rules and regulations of all ITF sanctioned tournaments, and these can provide more details.

Tennis Court Layout

The tennis court is a rectangle on a flat surface, 78 feet (23.77m) long and, for singles matches, 27 feet (8.23 m) wide. For doubles matches, the court is 36 feet (10.97m) wide. It is divided in the middle by a net suspended between two net posts at a height of 3.5 feet (1.07m), dipping to a height of 3 feet (0.914m) at the centre. The ball typically must pass over the net when hit, but it is also legal to hit the ball around the net posts.

The boundaries of the court are defined by lines, which are there to show where the ball can be legally hit, and where the players can legally stand when serving or receiving a serve. Balls that land beyond the court boundaries on the first bounce after crossing the net are considered 'out', while balls that bounce either on or inside the lines are considered 'in'.

The lines on the court have specific names and purposes:

Baseline: marks the long boundaries of a court. The server must stand behind the baseline, between the centre mark and the sideline when serving.

Singles sideline: marks the wide boundaries of a court when two singles players are playing.

Doubles sideline: marks the wide boundaries of a court when doubles is being played.

Doubles alley/tramline: the 4.5 feet (1.37m) gap between the singles sideline and the doubles sideline

Service lines: located 21 feet (6.40 m) from each side of the net, parallel with the net.

Centre service line: the line located parallel to the singles sidelines and halfway between them, creating two service boxes. A player's serve must cross the net and land in the service box diagonally opposite in order to start a point.

Deuce court: the half of the court located to the right of the centre mark and centre service line from the server and returner's perspective.

Ad court: the half of the court located to the left of the centre mark and centre service line from the server and returner's perspective.

Centre mark: located in the middle of the baseline, the mark indicates the central boundary of the deuce court and ad court for the server.

Tennis Shots

There is a wider array of shots in tennis. The fundamental shots are explained here:

Serve: the serve (or service) is the first shot played in each game. The serving player tosses the ball in the air and hits it to land in the service box on the opposite – diagonal – side of the court. On each point, if a player misses their first serve, they may play a second serve.

Groundstroke: the shot played after the ball has hit the ground. Groundstrokes are often played nearer the baseline, but can happen anywhere on the court.

Volley: this shot is when the ball is hit by the player before it hits the ground. Volleys are often played close to the net, but can happen anywhere on the court.

Forehand: a groundstroke or volley played with the palm of the racket hand facing the direction of the shot. Forehand groundstrokes are typically referred to as 'forehands'.

Backhand: a shot played with the back of the racket hand facing forward toward the direction of the shot. Backhand groundstrokes are typically referred to as 'backhands'.

The following is a non-exhaustive list of terms used to describe shots in more detail:

Ace: a serve which bounces in the correct service box that the returner (or receiver) fails to touch before the second bounce.

Approach Shot: a shot played as the player is approaching (moving toward) the net.

Backspin: this involves hitting the ball at an angle to cause a backward spin.

Chip and Charge: a player hits a sliced approach shot, then runs towards the net to volley the opponent's return.

Crosscourt: hitting the ball to travel diagonally to the opponent's side of the court (i.e. deuce court to deuce court, or ad court to ad court).

Deep: hitting the ball that bounces near the opponent's baseline.

Down the line: a shot hit near, and roughly parallel to the sideline.

Down the middle; a shot hit near and roughly parallel to the centre service line.

Drop shot: a softly hit shot that lands close to the net, often played with backspin.

Flat: hitting the ball little or no spin, often used in fast serves and groundstrokes.

Half volley: hitting the ball just after it has bounced.

Kick serve: the kick serve involves hitting the serve with lots of topspin, causing the ball to bounce high on the opponent's side.

Lob: a shot designed to pass over an opponent's head before landing in the court.

Passing Shot: a shot hit past an opponent positioned near the net

Slice: slice creates backspin on the ball, resulting in a lower bounce.

Smash: a shot hit with the ball above head height hit with a downward trajectory towards the opponent's court

Topspin: a shot that creates a forward rotation on the ball, resulting in a higher bounce.

Tweener: a shot hit between the legs. Also known as hotdog.

Tennis Scoring

Tennis scoring is unique and has a language of its own. A match is made up of sets; a set is made up of games; and a game is made up of points. In each game, the score of the serving player or pair is always announced first.

A player or pair must win four points to win a game, with a margin of at least two points. Games are scored using the following point system:

- **Love** - in tennis, love means zero.
- **15** - one point.
- **30** – two points.
- **40** – three points.
- **Deuce** – this means that both players or pairs have scored three points each and are therefore level. A player or pair must win two consecutive points to win the game when the score is deuce.
- **Advantage** – when the score is at deuce, the next point won is known as advantage. Should the player or pair at advantage win the next point, they win the game. If the opponent wins the next point, the score returns to deuce.

A player or pair must win six games to win a set, with a margin of at least two games:

When both players or pairs have each won five games, ('5-games-all'), the set will last for two more standard games, with one of two outcomes:

- One player or pair wins the next two games, and therefore wins the set 7-5

or

- The players or pairs win one game each and the set goes to a 'tiebreak'. In a tiebreak, the first player or pair to win 7 points wins the set. A margin of two points in still needed, so if the score reaches 6-6 in the tiebreak, the tiebreak continues until one player or pair have won by two clear points (eg 8-6, 9-7, 10-8, etc). The winner of the tiebreak wins the set by a score of 7-6.

The majority of standard tennis matches are played as best-of-three sets (first player or pair to win two sets, also called three-set matches) while some men's matches are played as best-of-five sets (first player or pair to win three sets, also called five-set matches).

The following terms are used to refer to specific points during a match:

- **Game Point:** A player is one point away from winning the game.
- **Break Point:** A break point occurs when the returner is one point away winning the game.
- **Set Point:** A player is one point away from winning a game and with it the set.
- **Match Point:** A player is one point away from winning a game and with it their second/third set to win the match.

The following terms describe the most common ways in which a point ends or must be restarted:

- **Out:** If the ball lands outside of the side-lines or baseline during a rally, the point goes to the other player.
- **Fault:** An unsuccessful serve is called a 'fault'. On each point, the server gets two chances to execute a legal serve; after a fault on the first serve, a player gets a second serve.
- **Double Fault:** The server's second serve is also a fault, and the point goes to the returner.
- **Foot Fault:** During the service motion, the server must stand behind the baseline and between the correct side of the centre mark and the side line to serve. A foot fault is called when the feet touch the baseline or the court, or cross the centre mark or side line.
- **Service let:** A 'let' is called when the serve hits the net but still lands in the correct service box, or the ball is served when the receiver is not ready. Rather than being considered a fault, the serve is replayed.
- **Let:** A let may also be called if a point is unexpectedly interrupted. In this case, the point is replayed, beginning with a first serve.

Tennis Court Surfaces

Tennis can be played both indoors and outdoors on a variety of court surfaces, each with distinct characteristics. The three court surfaces featured at the Grand Slams are:

- **Clay Courts**: Clay is considered the 'slowest' surface in tennis, often leading to longer rallies. The courts are generally made of limestone base (or similar) and are covered in brick dust or shale. The most famous clay courts are those at Roland Garros in Paris, home to the French Open. Play on clay courts is distinguished by the need to slide on the loose surface. The European clay court season is usually played between April and June.
- **Grass Courts**: Grass is renowned for being a fast court surface, while the bounce can be unpredictable and low. Grass is best known internationally for

The Championships, held each year at the All England Lawn Tennis Club in Wimbledon, London. The grass court season is played in June and July.

- **Hard Courts**: Hard courts are the most common type of tennis court, although the specification and the speed of the courts can vary greatly. Both the Australian Open, held in Melbourne each January, and US Open, played in New York in September, are played on hard courts.

There are many other tennis court surfaces used around the world, including carpet, Astroturf, green clay, and parquet.

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ROD LAVER ARENA

https://rodlaverarena.com.au/

Rod Laver Arena was opened at Melbourne Park in 1988 as part of the National Tennis Centre complex.

The popular arena is centre court for the Australian Open and hosts a wide range of live sport and entertainment events, from historic grand slam showdowns to world-famous international touring artists.

Rod Laver Arena enjoys a global reputation as a world-class venue known for hosting the best in sports, live entertainment, and premier event experiences.

Melbourne & Olympic Parks (M&OP) acknowledges the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nation as Traditional Owners of the land on which the precinct is located and recognise their ongoing connection to this land, and rich culture. We pay respects to their Elders past, present and future.

The land that now hosts the M&OP precinct has been a gathering place for generations.

Prior to Federation, the area was reserved as part of 'Government Paddock', which over time included police barracks, zoological gardens and parklands. In 1909, the area now encompassing Olympic Park was proclaimed Crown Land by the Victorian Government as a "site for the recreation, convenience and amusement of people." In this period, the area hosted cycling, racing, athletics, wrestling and Australian Rules Football.

In 1933, the Olympic Park sporting arena was established, and speed-car racing joined the roster of events. By 1940, World War II was underway and petrol rationing made motorsports unviable. The arena was demolished in 1946 before significant redevelopment was undertaken to prepare the precinct to host field hockey and cycling events during the 1956 Olympic Games. After the Olympics, soccer, rugby union, greyhound racing, and even equestrian competitions were often held across the precinct.

By 1988, a significant redevelopment was underway to establish a new, purpose-built, multi-venue National Tennis Centre to host the Australian Open, establishing the venues that would come to be known as Rod Laver Arena and Margaret Court Arena.

In 2000, a new multipurpose area (now John Cain Arena) was established, and in 2006 the precinct hosted various events for the Commonwealth Games.

In 2010, AAMI Park was opened, and over the last decade, nearly a billion dollars has been invested by the Victorian Government to redevelop Melbourne Park, securing the precinct as the home of the Australian Open until at least 2044.

Welcoming more than a million people each year, the popular arena is centre court for the Australian Open and hosts a wide range of live sport and entertainment events, from historic grand slam showdowns to world-famous international touring artists.

A panoramic view of Rod Laver Arena during a day session at the 2020 Australian Open

Naming:

- National Tennis Centre at Flinders Park (11 January 1988 – 28 January 1996)
- Centre Court (29 January 1996 – 15 January 2000)
- Rod Laver Arena (16 January 2000—Present)

Features:

Rod Laver Arena has a seating capacity of 14,820, with a capacity of 15,400 for sports such as basketball, when extra seats are added around the court, and up to 14,200 for concerts with floor seating. The arena currently attracts over 1.5 million visitors per year.

The arena was the first tennis venue in the world and the first arena of any kind in Australia to have a retractable roof installed. The idea for such a roof came about at the suggestion of John Cain, the premier of Victoria around 1980, who came up with the compromise idea after Tennis Australia requested the government to build an open-air tennis facility next to a pre-existing government project to build a closed roof entertainment center.

The Rod Laver Arena is the largest indoor arena in Australia without a permanent roof (not counting the 56,347 seat Docklands Stadium, also in Melbourne, which is classed as a stadium rather than an arena). It is also the second largest indoor arena in Australia behind the 21,032 capacity Sydney Super Dome. The arena's retractable roof allows competitors to continue play during rain or extreme heat. Rod Laver Arena is equipped with the Hawk-Eye electronic system which allows tennis players to challenge the umpire's decision on calls made throughout championships.

Events & Sports:

Rod Laver Arena is the centrepiece of the National Tennis Centre at Melbourne Park, and besides tennis, the arena has hosted basketball, motorbike super-crosses, music concerts, conferences, World Wrestling Entertainment events and ballet. Other than for tennis, during sporting events or concerts, a section of the southern lower seating bowl is retracted to allow space for a stage or special floor level seating.

Rod Laver Arena acts as the centre court for the Australian Open tennis championships every year. The player after whom the arena is named, Rod Laver, is a frequent guest of honour at Championships and has presented the trophy to the men's singles champion on several occasions. Laver is widely considered the best player of his generation and amongst the consideration in the best players of all time.

Rod Laver Arena was the scene for Australia's famous Davis Cup victories in 2003. The arena hosted the semi-final and Final, at which Australia was successful in recording their 28th Davis Cup title.

A view of the redeveloped Rod Laver Arena in January 2020

Some Selected Pictures

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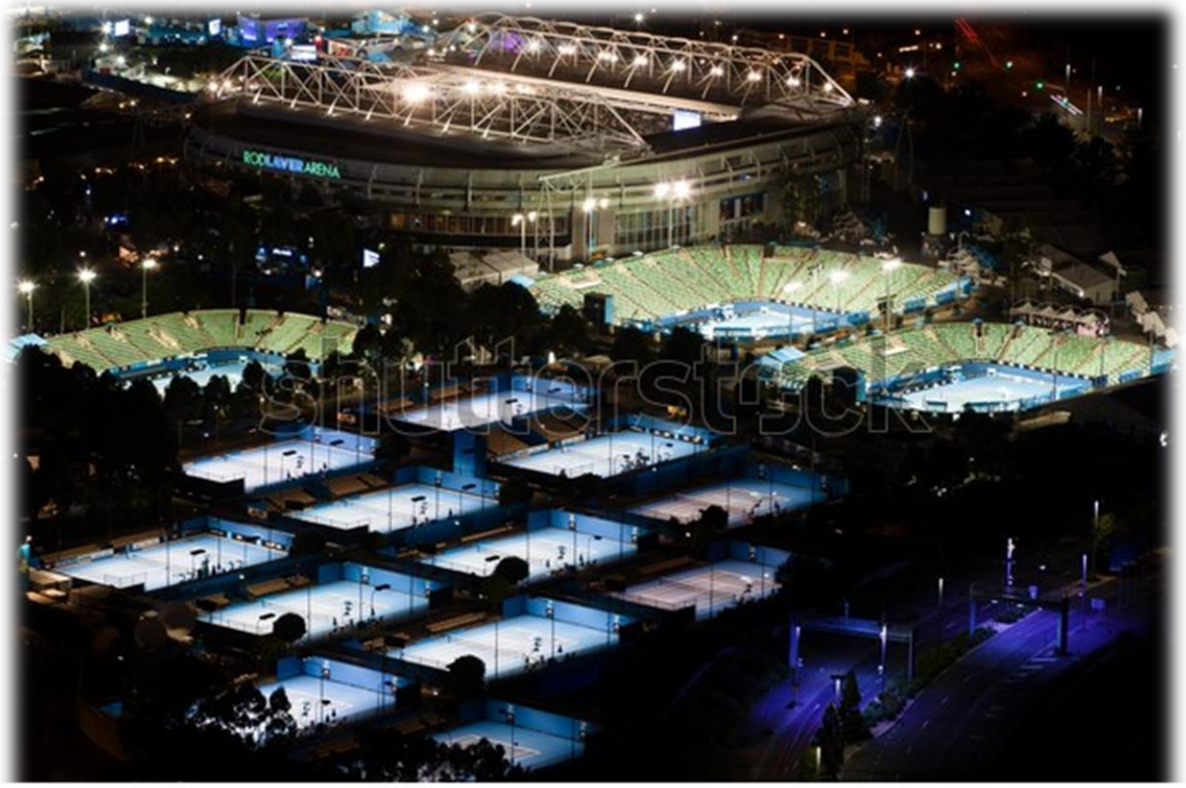

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STATUE

Rod Laver

Tennis great Rod Laver honoured with statue at Melbourne Park

Image Details:

Contributor: Chun Ju Wu / Alamy Stock Photo
File size: 69.1 MB (1.9 MB Compressed download)
Dimensions: 6016 x 4016 px | 50.9 x 34 cm | 20.1 x 13.4 inches | 300dpi
Location: Melbourne, Australia

Tennis great Rod Laver has been honoured with the unveiling of a statue in his likeness at Melbourne Park.

Laver, the only man to twice achieve a calendar year Grand Slam — winning the Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon and the US Open in one year — is revered by modern greats like Swiss star Roger Federer.

With this year's Australian Open just two weeks away, the Rockhampton-native was back at Rod Laver Arena to view the bronze statue of him in action.

"I think it's very much a likeness and brings me back to the sixties, I guess, when my competing days were in full swing," he said.

"It brings back memories ... seeing my name up there in lights on the stadium, it's ... almost overpowering to know that this has happened in a career span."

The statue captures him in mid-backhand, the stroke he was famous for.

"I guess I was known for my backhand whether it be a backhand drive or volley, I think that was the thought that I wanted when they started making pictures and finding what was suitable," he said.

"When you look back at all the great champions we've had here, who have come along with me, I'm thrilled to know that through them I became a player.

"I was one of the smaller players and the great thing about retirement is that the writers and the artists enlarge your reputation," the typically humble Laver said.

The artist tasked with producing Laver's likeness was Melbourne-based sculptor Lis Johnson.

"Rod Laver's international iconic status is daunting and I was anxious about creating a worthy tribute," Johnson said.

"Meeting Rod Laver has been both an honour and a great pleasure. I'm so excited he's happy with the final result."

"Rod welcomed me into his home, helped me with my research, answered all my queries, let me measure his head with my strange instruments and generously gave me access to all his photos.

Watch the Unveiling of the Statute:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Et4vwylNi-w&ab_channel=AustralianOpenTV

Some Selected Pictures

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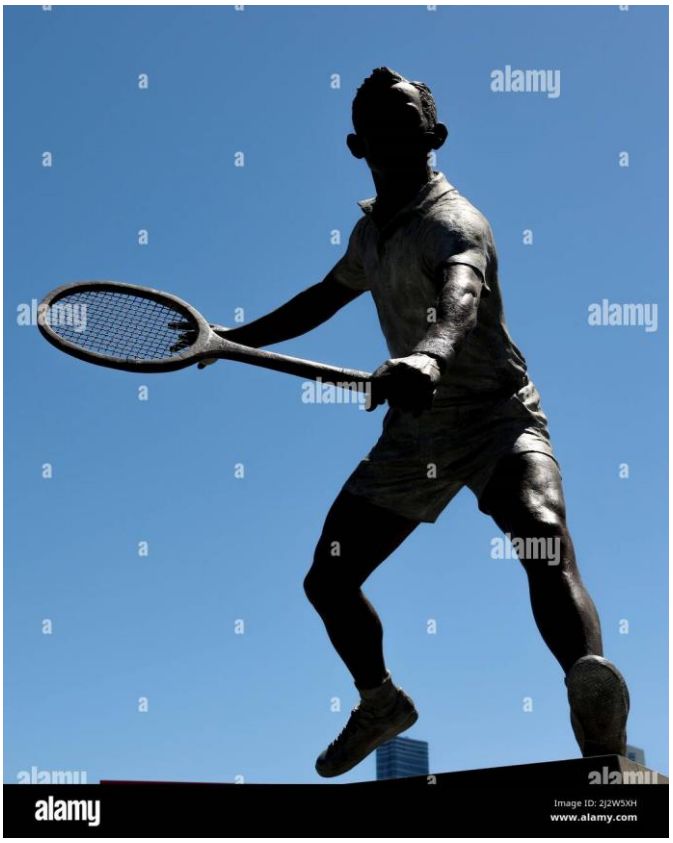
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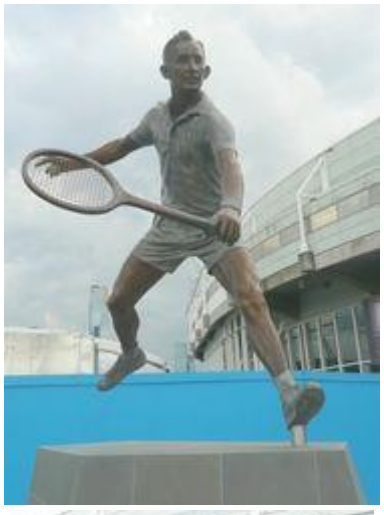
https://monumentaustralia.org.au/links

Monument Australia

[Self-funded & Non-profit Organization]

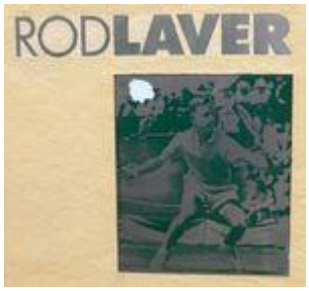
Rod Laver



FRIDAY
5 MAY

FRIDAY
5 MAY
SAT 22 & SUN 23 JULY

ROD LAVER AC MBE
CALENDAR YEAR GRAND SLAM (SINGLES): 1962, 1969
WINNER OF 11 GRAND SLAM TITLES
SINGLES CHAMPION:
DAVIS CUP VICTORIES:
SCULPTOR: LIS JOHNSON



The sculpture commemorates tennis player, Rod Laver who holds the record for titles won in career, and was the World No. 1 player for seven consecutive years, from 1964 to 1970 (from 1964 to 1967 in the professional circuit).

Rod Laver is the only tennis player to have twice won the Grand Slam (all four major singles titles in the same year) – first as an amateur in 1962 and second as a professional in 1969. He is the only male player and was the first player, male or female, to have won the Grand Slam during the open era.

Rod Laver is the second and last male player to win each major title twice in his career. Only Roy Emerson and Margaret Court had won all four Grand Slam tournaments twice before Laver in the history of tennis.

Location

Address:	Olympic Boulevard & Batman Avenue, Tennis Centre, Melbourne, 3000
State:	VIC
Area:	AUS
GPS Coordinates:	Lat: -37.822229 Long: 144.979065 Note: GPS Coordinates are approximate.

Details

Monument Type:	Sculpture
Monument Theme:	People

Sub-Theme:	Sport
Artist:	Lis Johnson (Barkers Creek, VIC)

Dedication

Approx. Monument Dedication Date:	January-2017

Front Inscription

Rod Laver AC MBE

Rod "Rocket" Laver is among the greatest tennis players the world has ever seen.

Born in 1938 in Rockhampton, Queensland, Laver is the only player to have completed the coveted "Grand Slam" twice - winning all four major singles titles in the same year.

Laver was ranked world No.1 for seven consecutive years and won more than 200 singles titles, a record in the men`s game. His sporting demeanour on and off the court won the admiration of fans worldwide.

Belying his mighty achievements, Laver remains an unassuming champion, and inspiration to his fellow Australians and a beloved national treasure.

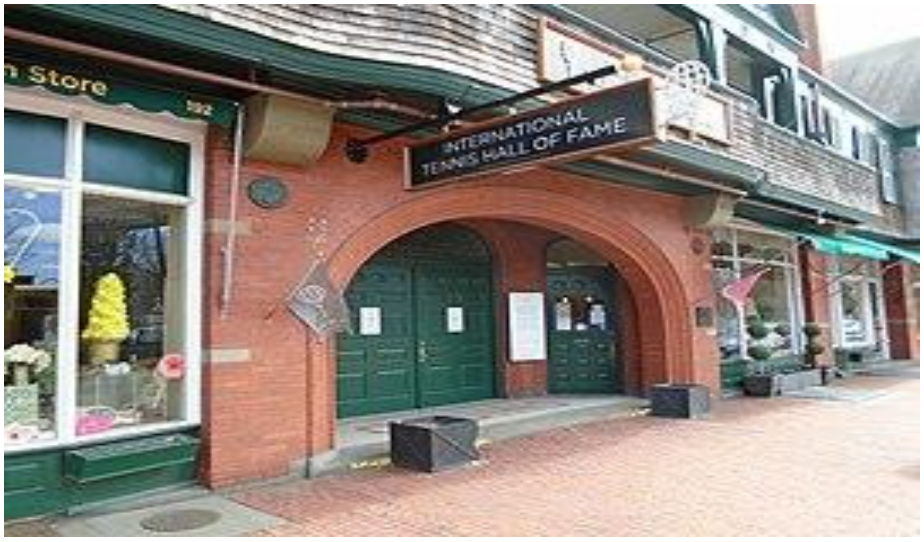
Calendar Year Grand Slam (Singles) : 1962 , 1969
Winner of 20 Grand Slam titles
Singles Champion :
Australian Open 1960, 1962, 1969
Roland Garros 1962, 1969
Wimbledon 1961, 1962, 1968, 1969
US Open 1962, 1969
Australian Davis Cup Representative : 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1973
Davis Cup Victories : 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1973

Please visit this web page:

https://monumentaustralia.org.au/themes/people/sport/display/96126-rod-laver

International Tennis Hall of Fame

The International Tennis Hall of Fame is located in Newport, Rhode Island, United States. It honors both players and other contributors to the sport of tennis. The complex, the former Newport Casino, includes a museum, grass tennis courts, an indoor tennis facility, a court tennis facility, and a theatre. The International Tennis Hall of Fame is a non-profit organization with the goal to preserve, celebrate, and inspire the sport of tennis around the world.



The entrance to the International Tennis Hall of Fame (2021)

Members

Being inducted into the Tennis Hall of Fame is the ultimate honor in tennis. It represents the sum of one's achievements and contributions as being among the most important and transformative in tennis history. There is a seven-step process to be inducted into the Tennis Hall of Fame. A player or contributor must be nominated to be inducted, and then the national enshrinement committee reviews their eligibility. Once it is decided if they are eligible, the committee reviews if the nominee will be considered by voters. After review, the voting begins; both group and fan voting takes place. A nominee must receive at least 75% from the Official Voting Group result or a combined total of 75% or more from the Official Voting Group result and any bonus percentage points they earn through the Fan Vote. Votes are tallied by an independent accounting firm. The

class induction is announced in January, and the new class is inducted into the Tennis Hall of Fame in July at the International Tennis Hall of Fame.

Some of Pictures

An exciting, interactive Museum Experience

The museum showcases more of the collection than ever before. Nearly 2000 objects are displayed from the International Tennis Hall of Fame's collection of more than 25,000 artifacts and hundreds of thousands of images, videos, and publications.

An engaging story of tennis history

Dating to the 12th century and constantly evolving today, tennis has a storied history rooted in inspirational champions, impactful leaders, and great moments that have influenced history, on and off the court. The Museum at the International Tennis Hall of Fame shares the narrative of tennis history from its origins through present day. It

is split into three areas, The Birth of Tennis (1874 – 1918); The Popular Game (1918 – 1968); and The Open Era (1968 – Present).

****

On August 31, 1881, the first U.S. National Men's Singles Championship was contested at the Casino, among a field consisting of 25 participants, accompanied by a string quartet.

A visual masterpiece, the Casino Theatre served as both a 300-capacity removable seat theatre and as a ballroom for dances. The interior was gold-trimmed ivory with a sky-blue ceiling, decorated with golden stars.

Founding of the International Tennis Hall of Fame

Following a visit to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in the early 1950s, Jimmy Van Alen, then-President of the Newport Casino, and his wife Candy, decided that tennis also needed a place to honor its great figures. The Newport Casino was in danger of demolition, and with its rich tennis history, it was the perfect spot to establish a hall of fame. Jimmy Van Alen successfully lobbied the leadership of the United States Lawn Tennis Association to sanction the establishment of a National Tennis Hall of Fame in Newport. The venerable Newport Casino became the National Lawn Tennis Hall of Fame and Museum and was officially recognized by the International Tennis Federation in 1986.

https://www.tennisfame.com/hall-of-famers/inductees/rod-laver

https://www.itftennis.com/en/

Introduction

The **International Tennis Federation** (ITF) is the governing body of world tennis، wheelchair tennis، and beach tennis. It was founded in 1913 as the International Lawn Tennis Federation by twelve national tennis associations. As of 2016، there are 211 national and six regional associations that make up ITF's membership.

The ITF's governance responsibilities include maintaining and enforcing the rules of tennis، regulating international team competitions، promoting the game، and preserving the sport's integrity via anti-doping and anti-corruption programs. The ITF partners with the **Women's Tennis Association** (WTA) and the **Association of Tennis Professionals** (ATP) to govern professional tennis.

The ITF organizes the Grand Slam events، annual team competitions for men (**Davis Cup**)، women (**Billie Jean King Cup**)، and mixed teams (**Hopman Cup**)، as well as tennis and wheelchair tennis events at the Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games on behalf of the International Olympic Committee. The ITF sanctions the Grand Slam tennis tournaments as well as circuits which span age ranges (junior، professional men and women، and seniors) as well as disciplines (wheelchair tennis؛ beach tennis). In addition to these circuits، the ITF also maintains rankings for juniors، seniors، wheelchair and beach tennis.

National & Regional Associations

As of 2017, there are 211 national associations affiliated with the ITF, of which 148 are voting members and 63 are associate members. The criteria for allocating votes (1, 3, 5, 7, 9, or 12) to each voting member

are: performance in ITF team competitions; professional (ATP/WTA), junior, and wheelchair rankings of individuals; track record in organizing international tournaments; and contribution to ITF infrastructure. For example, France garners 12 votes, Canada has 9, Egypt has 5, Pakistan has 3, and Botswana has 1 vote.

Regional associations were created in July 1975 as six "supra-national associations" (Europe, Asia, Africa, North America, South America, and Australia) with the aim to decrease the gap between the ILTF and the national associations. These evolved into the current regional associations:

- Asian Tennis Federation (ATF) – 44 members
- Central American & Caribbean Tennis Confederation (COTECC) – 33 members
- Confederation of African Tennis (CAT) – 52 members
- Oceania Tennis Federation (OTF) – 20 members
- South America Tennis Confederation (COSAT) – 10 members
- Tennis Europe (TE) – 50 members
- ITF members with no regional affiliation (Canada and the United States)

Time Line

1913	**Foundation of the International Lawn Tennis Federation**
Inside the doors at 34 Rue de Provence in Paris, 15 nations become the inaugural members of the International Lawn Tennis Federation (ILTF) at the first general conference in Paris: Australasia, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Russia, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland and Spain. French is chosen as the official language.	
1923	**Adoption of the official rules of tennis**
At the AGM the ILTF is appointed governor of the rules of tennis worldwide, with effect from 1 January 1924. At the same time, a new category of Official Championships is created for events in Great Britain, France, USA and Australia – today's Grand Slam events.	
1927	Tennis disappears from the Olympics
The ILTF votes not to take part in the 1928 Olympics following the disrupt and disorder of the 1924 Paris Games.	
1939	The ILTF moves to London
With the outbreak of World War II, the ILTF moves to London. The total number of member nations rises to 59.	
1948	Creation of International Ball Committee
The International Ball Committee is set up to enquire into the standardisation of tennis balls worldwide. The committee recommends that "the ILTF should endeavour to procure an apparatus designed and constructed which will enable balls to be readily and accurately tested at speeds at which the game is played".	
1963	The ILTF's 50th Anniversary and Launch of the Federation Cup
The ILTF celebrates its 50th anniversary by launching a women's equivalent of Davis Cup. The first tournament takes place in bad weather at Queen's Club, London and is won by USA.	
1968	ILTF agrees to 'Open' tennis
After ten years of division and struggle within the ILTF an emergency meeting is called in Paris on 30 March and 47 nations agree in principle to open tennis. The ILTF receives sponsorship to organise Grand Prix tournaments allowing players to compete openly and legally for money.	
1970	Tennis adopts the Tiebreak
An experiment is authorised to test the tiebreak and the US Open is the first prominent tournament to do so, using the slogan 'You are cordially invited to sudden death in the afternoon at Forest Hills' to advertise the occasion. By 1974, the tiebreak has been sanctioned as an alternative scoring system.	
1979	ITF takes over Davis Cup
The ITF takes over formal responsibility for Davis Cup from the Davis Cup Nations. Veterans' tennis is also incorporated into the ITF. Two years later, the ITF restructures Davis Cup into a 16-nation World Group and feeder zones.	
1982	Florida hosts first worldwide coaches' workshop

The leading tennis nations attend the first official conference focused on educating coaches all over the world. Today over 600 coaches from around 100 nations attend the bi-annual event.	
1985	ITF receives first development donation
Wimbledon makes the first of what it pledges will be an annual donation of £100,000 to help the ITF's efforts to develop tennis worldwide. The other Grand Slams follow suit, establishing an initiative now known as the Grand Slam Development Fund.	
1988	Tennis returns to the Olympics
After a 64-year absence, tennis makes a successful return to the Olympics in Seoul in the year of the ITF's 75th anniversary. The ITF also adopts the two-bounce rule for wheelchair tennis.	
1993	ITF establishes the tennis anti-doping programme
The Tennis Anti-Doping Programme is adopted by the ITF, ATP and WTA and includes a set of fixed standards that the three main bodies must adhere to as well as a strong educational component. It becomes exclusively managed by the ITF four years later, in 1997.	
1995	Federation cup becomes Fed cup
The name change of the women's premier international team competition coincides with a new home-and-away format to mirror Davis Cup	
1998	ITF becomes home of 'The Lab'
The world's most advanced tennis-specific research facility is housed at the ITF. Also in 1998, Wheelchair tennis is subsumed into the ITF, making it the first disabled sport to achieve such a union at international level	
2004	The biggest crowd in tennis
The Davis Cup final between Spain and USA in Seville is attended by the largest-ever crowd for an official tennis match in history (27, 200). Also that year, the ITF opens its Junior Tennis School, a pastoral education programme for young players.	
2013	ITF's 100th anniversary; fed cup turns 50
210 member nations come together to celebrate 100 years of the ITF, while Fed Cup celebrates 50 years of the women's team competition.	
2014	Grand Slams increase funding to GSDF
The Grand Slam tournaments agree to increase their contribution to the Grand Slam Development Fund by 25 per cent to over $2 million annually in order to assist in the development of tennis worldwide.	
2015	ITF launches junior masters
The ITF launches a new international event featuring the world's top eight ranked boys and girls and designed to help the best young players transition to the professional game. Hosted in Chengdu, it is later renamed the ITF World Tennis Tour Junior Finals.	
2018	Davis Cup evolves again
The ITF Annual General Meeting votes in favour of transformational reforms to the Davis Cup, which sees the ITF link up with investment group Kosmos in a 25-year, $3billion partnership. The deal secures the long-term future of the competition and	

promises to generate substantial revenues for global tennis development. Madrid is chosen as the initial host city for the Davis Cup Finals – a new World Cup of tennis.	
2020	Suspension of Professional tennis
The ITF aligns with the ATP and WTA in cancelling events and suspending all Tours for six months in response to a Covid-19 Pandemic that brings the world to a relative standstill.	
2021	Fed Cup re-named after Billie Jean King, inaugural finals held
Fed Cup is re-branded in 2020 to align with a 10-time winner (as player and captain) of the competition and a global icon who has dedicated her life to fighting injustice, inequality and discrimination in all forms. Delayed by the pandemic, the inaugural Billie Jean King Cup Finals is held the following November in Prague.	

Governance

The ITF is the world governing body for the sport of tennis. Its governance includes the following responsibilities: make, amend, and enforce the Rules of Tennis; regulate international team competitions; promote the game of tennis; and preserve the integrity of tennis.

By its own constitution, the ITF guarantees that the official Rules of Tennis "shall be for ever in the English language". A committee within the ITF periodically makes rule amendment recommendations to the board of directors. The Rules of Tennis encompass the manner of play and scoring, in-game coaching, and the technical specifications of equipment (e.g. ball, racket, net, court) and other technology (e.g. player analysis technology). The Rules cover tennis, wheelchair tennis, and beach tennis.

Through the Tennis Anti-Doping Program, the ITF implements the World Anti-Doping Code (from the World Anti-Doping Agency, or WADA) for tennis. National associations must implement the code within its national jurisdiction, report violations up to the ITF and WADA, and report annually about all testing conducted. The Tennis Anti-Doping Program began in 1993, and applies to all players who play in ITF-sanctioned competitions, as well as tournaments on the ATP Tour and WTA Tour. In 2015, 2514 samples were collected from men and 1919 samples were collected from women; 2256 samples were collected during tennis tournaments ("in-competition") and 2177 were collected at other times ("out-of-competition").

The Tennis Integrity Unit (TIU) is a joint initiative of the primary governing bodies in tennis: the ITF, the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP), the Women's Tennis Association (WTA), and the Grand Slam Board. Formed in 2008 in response to betting-related

corruption challenges, the TIU's mandate is to protect tennis from "all forms of betting-related corrupt practices". As with the anti-doping efforts, national associations are charged with the responsibility of enforcing a code of conduct and reporting any violations.

Team Competitions

The ITF operates the two major annual international team competitions in the sport, the Davis Cup for men and the Billie Jean King Cup for women. It also sanctions the Hopman Cup, an annual mixed-gender team tournament. The ITF also organizes tennis and wheelchair tennis events every four years at the Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games on behalf of the International Olympic Committee.

Awards

[https://www.itftennis.com/en/about-us/governance/itf-awards/]

ITF WORLD CHAMPIONS

Each year, the ITF honours players who make the biggest impact on the tennis world. We name a World Champion in all disciplines across professional, junior and wheelchair competition.

WHEELCHAIR TENNIS AWARDS

As well as crowning year-end ITF World Champions in the men's, women's and quad wheelchair tennis categories, the ITF also recognises individuals from the Wheelchair Tennis community through four further awards. Discover more about each award - and the previous winners - below.

BRAD PARKS AWARD

The Brad Parks Award is presented to an individual or organisation that has made a significant contribution to wheelchair tennis on an international basis. Usually this contribution will be over several years.

Previous winners
2022 Dan James (USA)
2021 Kai Schrameyer (GER)
2020 John Noakes (NED)
2019 Christo Kok (NED)
2018 Greg Crump (AUS)
2017 Rick Draney (USA)
2016 Esther Vergeer (NED)
2015 David Hall (AUS)

2014 Stig Ericson (SWE)
2013 Martin McElhatton (GBR)
2012 Monique Kalkman (NED)
2011 Jean-Paul Cournet (FRA)
2010 Chantal Vandierendonck (NED)
2009 Jean-Pierre Limborg (FRA)
2008 Kotaro Shibata (JPN)
2007 The Cruyff Foundation (NED)
2006 Bruce Karr (USA)
2005 Sue Wolstenholme (GBR)
2004 Ruurd de Boer (NED)
2003 Aoi Kobayashi (JPN)
2002 Randy Snow (USA)
2001 Pierre Fusade (FRA)
2000 LTA Trust (GBR)
1999 Brian Tobin (AUS)
1998 Invacare (USA)
1997 Graeme Watts (AUS)
1996 NEC (JPN)
1995 KNLTB (NED)
1994 ITF (GBR)
1993 Brad Parks (USA)

UNIQLO SPIRIT AWARD

Launched in 2017, the UNIQLO Spirit Award is presented by UNIQLO to an individual/organisation who embodies the principles and core values of UNIQLO.

Winner

2021 **Alberto Corradi (ITA)**
2020 Johana Martinez (COL)
2019 Karin Korb (USA)
2018 Nick Taylor (USA)
2017 Patrick Selepe (RSA)

Runner-up

2021 **Sri Lanka Tennis Association**
2020 Manoj Soma (IND)
2019 Tereza Stenclava (LAT)
2018 Esteban Ortiz (ECU)
2017 Louise Hunt (GBR)

WHEELCHAIR JUNIOR OF THE YEAR

Inaugurated in January 2020, the Junior of the Year Award recognises young wheelchair tennis players who both impress with their results on court and embody the principles of leadership and sportsmanship off-court.

Previous winners

2022 Ben Bartram (GBR) and Lizzy De Greef (NED)
2021 Tokito Oda (JPN) and Angelina Fosbinder (USA)
2020 Dahnon Ward (GBR) and Lizzy De Greef (NED)

COACH OF THE YEAR

The Coach of the Year Award is presented by the ITF Wheelchair Tennis Committee to the coach who is considered to have made a substantial contribution to the development of wheelchair tennis and players both nationally and internationally.

Previous winners

2021 Amanda Hopmans (NED)
2020 Francois Vogelsberger (AUS)
2018 Jagath Welikala (SRI)
2017 Marc Grandjean (BEL)
2016 Stuart Wilkinson (GBR)
2015 Christian Gingras (CAN)
2014 Lawrence Karanja (KEN)
2013 Paul Walker (USA)
2012 Holger Losch (RSA)
2011 Dan James (USA)
2010 Toni Gustavsson (SWE)
2009 Geraint Richards (GBR)
2008 Jason Harnett (USA)
2007 Dan James (USA)
2006 Severine Tamborero (CAN)
2005 David Sanz (ESP)
2004 Aad Zwaan (NED)

ITF AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT ON THE ITF WORLD TENNIS MASTERS TOUR

Only a very small number of remarkable players have achieved the criteria for this award. They are as follows:

2019 Peter Pokorny
2016 King Van Nostrand
2014 Heide Orth
2012 Lorne Main

GOLDEN ACHIEVEMENT AWARD HONOUR ROLL

2019 Pierre Darmon (FRA)
2018 Stuart Smith (GBR)

2017 Masaaki Morita (JPN)
2016 Vittorio Selmi (ITA)
2015 Mark Stenning (USA)
2014 David Jude (GBR)
2013 Geoff Pollard (AUS)
2012 Shamil Tarpischev (RUS)
2011 Tim Phillips (GBR)
2010 Heinz Grimm (SUI)
2009 Peachy Kellmeyer (USA)
2008 Juan Maria Tintore (ESP)
2007 Nancy P. Jeffett (USA)
2006 James R. Cochrane (GBR)
2005 Eiichi Kawatei (JPN)
2004 John Curry (GBR)
2003 J. Howard "Bumpy" Frazer (USA)
2002 Enrique Morea (ARG)
2001 Pablo Llorens Renaga (ESP)
2000 Gil de Kermadec (FRA)
1999 Brian Tobin (AUS)

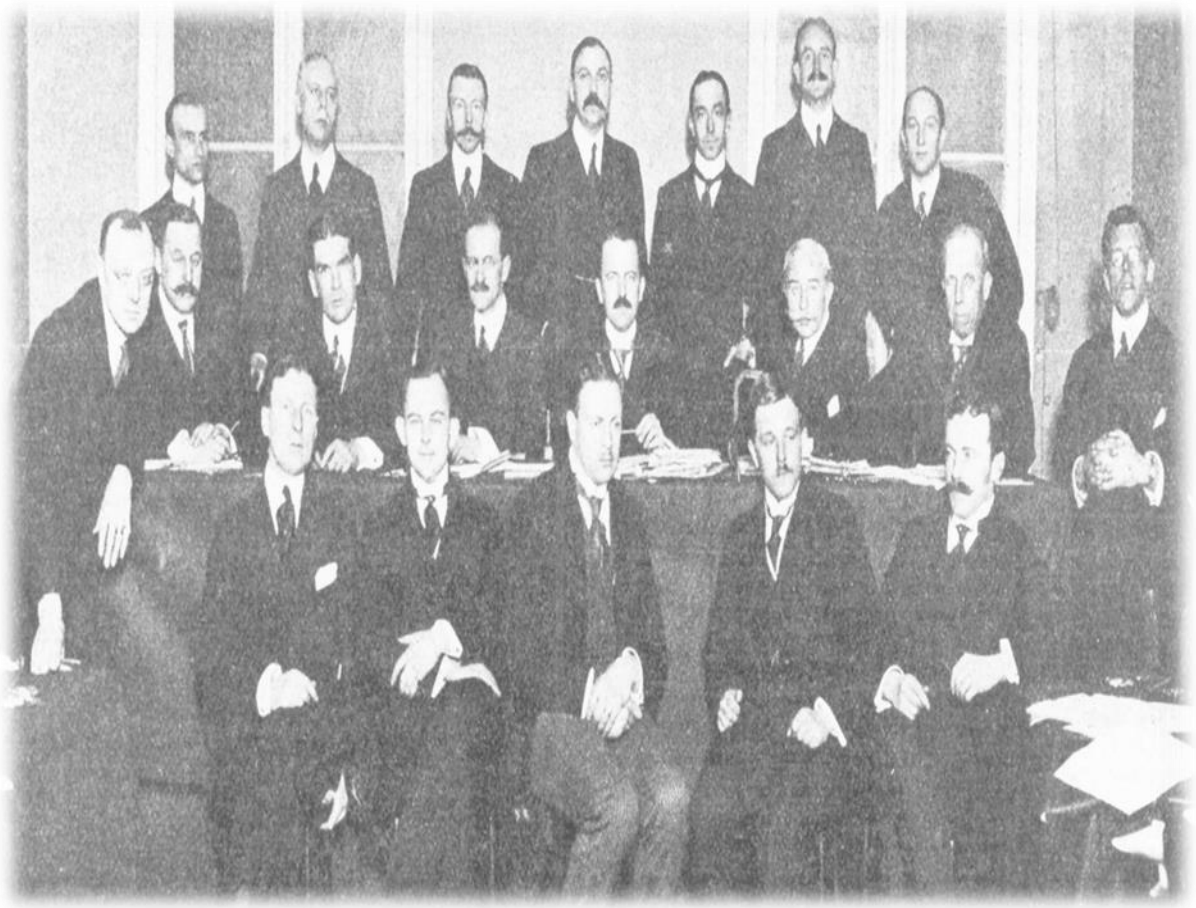
ITHF GLOBAL ORGANISATION OF DISTINCTION AWARD

2020 Not Presented
2019 Chinese Tennis Association
2018 Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club
2017 Tennis Cambodia

History of Tennis in Pictures

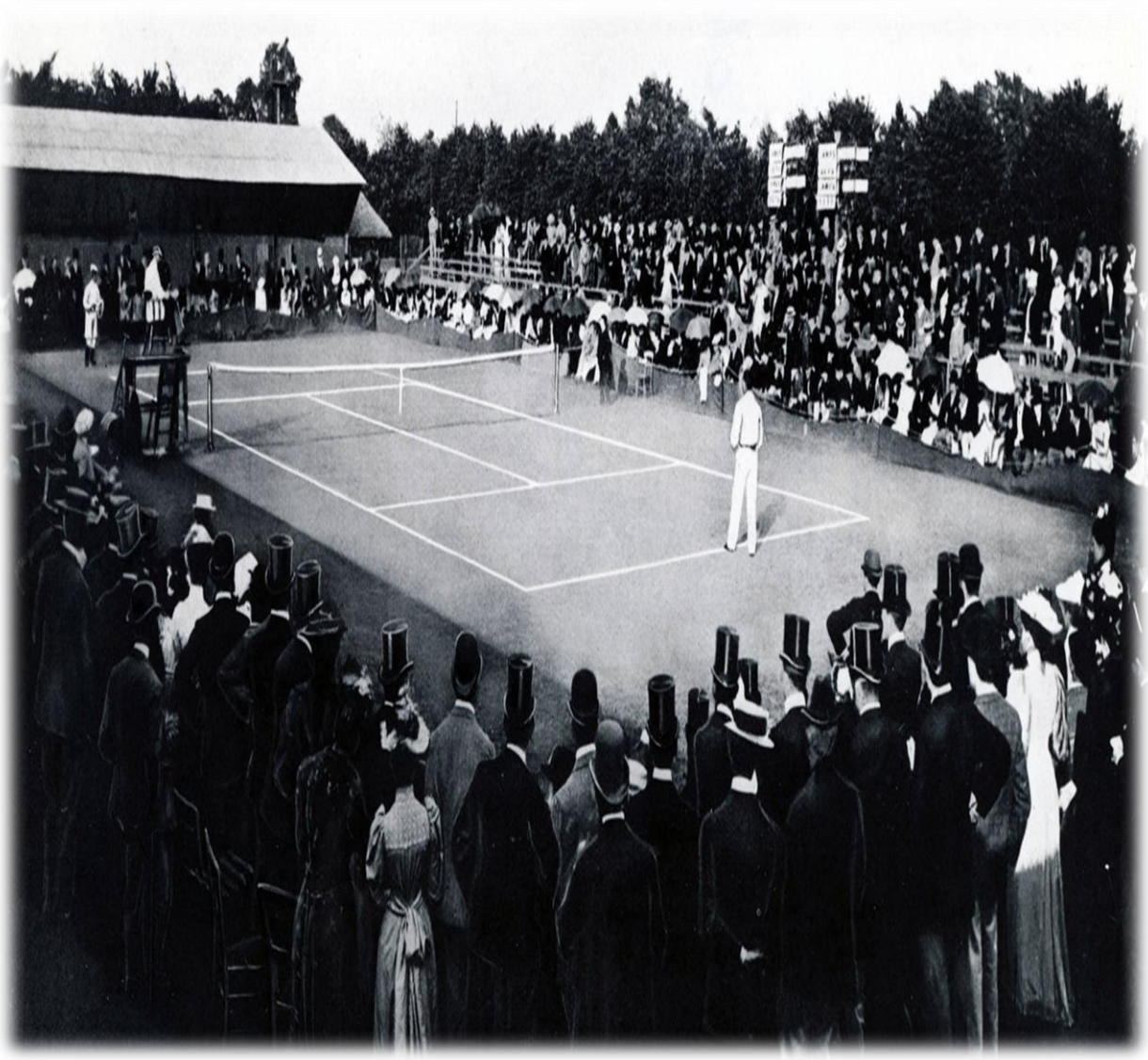
Also watch:

https://www.itftennis.com/en/about-us/organisation/history-of-the-itf/



FOUNDATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LAWN TENNIS FEDERATION ; 1913

Inside the doors at 34 Rue de Provence in Paris, 15 nations become the inaugural members of the International Lawn Tennis Federation (ILTF) at the first general conference in Paris: Australasia, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Russia, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland and Spain.
French is chosen as the official language.



ADOPTION OF THE OFFICIAL RULES OF TENNIS : 1923

At the AGM the ILTF is appointed governor of the rules of tennis worldwide, with effect from 1 January 1924. At the same time, a new category of Official Championships is created for events in Great Britain, France, USA and Australia – today's Grand Slam events.

CREATION OF INTERNATIONAL BALL COMMITTEE : 1948

The International Ball Committee is set up to enquire into the standardisation of tennis balls worldwide. The committee recommends that "the ILTF should endeavour to procure an apparatus designed and constructed which will enable balls to be readily and accurately tested at speeds at which the game is played".

THE ILTF'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY AND LAUNCH OF THE FEDERATION CUP : 1963

The ILTF celebrates its 50th anniversary
by launching a women's equivalent of Davis Cup.
The first tournament takes place in bad weather
at Queen's Club, London and is won by USA.

ILTF AGREES TO 'OPEN' TENNIS : 1968

After ten years of division and struggle within the ILTF an emergency meeting is called in Paris on 30 March and 47 nations agree in principle to open tennis. The ILTF receives sponsorship to organise Grand Prix tournaments allowing players to compete openly and legally for money.

TENNIS ADOPTS THE TIE-BREAK : 1970

An experiment is authorised to test the tiebreak and the US Open is the first prominent tournament to do so, using the slogan 'You are cordially invited to sudden death in the afternoon at Forest Hills' to advertise the occasion. By 1974, the tiebreak has been sanctioned as an alternative scoring system.

ITF TAKES OVER DAVIS CUP : 1979

The ITF takes over formal responsibility for Davis Cup from the Davis Cup Nations. Veterans tennis is also incorporated into the ITF. Two years later, the ITF restructures Davis Cup into a 16-nation World Group and feeder zones.

FLORIDA HOSTS FIRST WORLDWIDE COACHES WORKSHOP : 1982

The leading tennis nations attend the first official conference focused on educating coaches all over the world. Today over 600 coaches from around 100 nations attend the bi-annual event.

ITF RECEIVES FIRST DEVELOPMENT DONATION : 1985

Wimbledon makes the first of what it pledges will be an annual donation of £100,000 to help the ITF's efforts to develop tennis worldwide. The other Grand Slams follow suit, establishing an initiative now known as the Grand Slam Development Fund.

FEDERATION CUP BECOMES FED CUP : 1995

The name change of the women's premier international team competition coincides with a new home-and-away format to mirror Davis Cup.

THE BIGGEST CROWD IN TENNIS : 2004

The Davis Cup final between Spain and USA in Seville is attended by the largest-ever crowd for an official tennis match in history (27, 200). Also that year, the ITF opens its Junior Tennis School, a pastoral education programme for young players.

ITF's 100TH ANNIVERSARY; FED CUP TURNS 50 : 2013

210 member nations come together to
celebrate 100 years of the ITF,
while Fed Cup celebrates 50 years of
the women's team competition.

GRAND SLAMS INCREASE FUNDING TO GSDF : 2014

The Grand Slam tournaments agree to increase their contribution to the Grand Slam Development Fund by 25 per cent to over $2 million annually in order to assist in the development of tennis worldwide.

ITF LAUNCHES JUNIOR MASTERS : 2015

The ITF launches a new international event
featuring the world's top eight ranked boys
and girls and designed to help the
best young players transition to the
professional game. Hosted in Chengdu,
it is later renamed the ITF World Tennis Tour Junior Finals.

DAVIS CUP EVOLVES AGAIN : 2018

The ITF Annual General Meeting votes in favour of transformational reforms to the Davis Cup, which sees the ITF link up with investment group Kosmos in a 25-year, $3billion partnership. The deal secures the long-term future of the competition and promises to generate substantial revenues for global tennis development. Madrid is chosen as the initial host city for the Davis Cup Finals – a new World Cup of tennis.

FED CUP RE-NAMED AFTER BILLIE JEAN KING, INAUGURAL FINALS HELD : 2021

Fed Cup is re-branded in 2020 to align with a 10-time winner (as player and captain) of the competition and a global icon who has dedicated her life to fighting injustice, inequality and discrimination in all forms. Delayed by the pandemic, the inaugural Billie Jean King Cup Finals is held the following November in Prague.

Visit these Web Pages to know more about Tennis:

- List of international sport federations
- Association of Tennis Professionals
- Women's Tennis Association
- History of tennis
- Grand Prix tennis circuit
- Tennis Integrity Unit
- International Tennis Integrity Agency
- Wightman Cup
- ITF Wheelchair Tennis Tour

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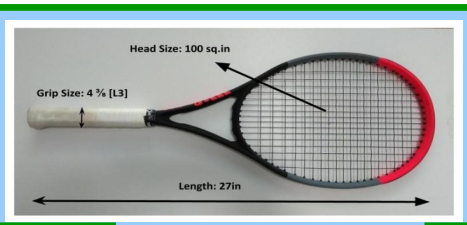

Players

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